JANUARY 2000 PRICE: HK$38

China

CHINA TOURISM

MACAO: CULTURE & CHANGE

WILD AND ATTRACTIVE QAIDAM

234

ISSN 1025-577X

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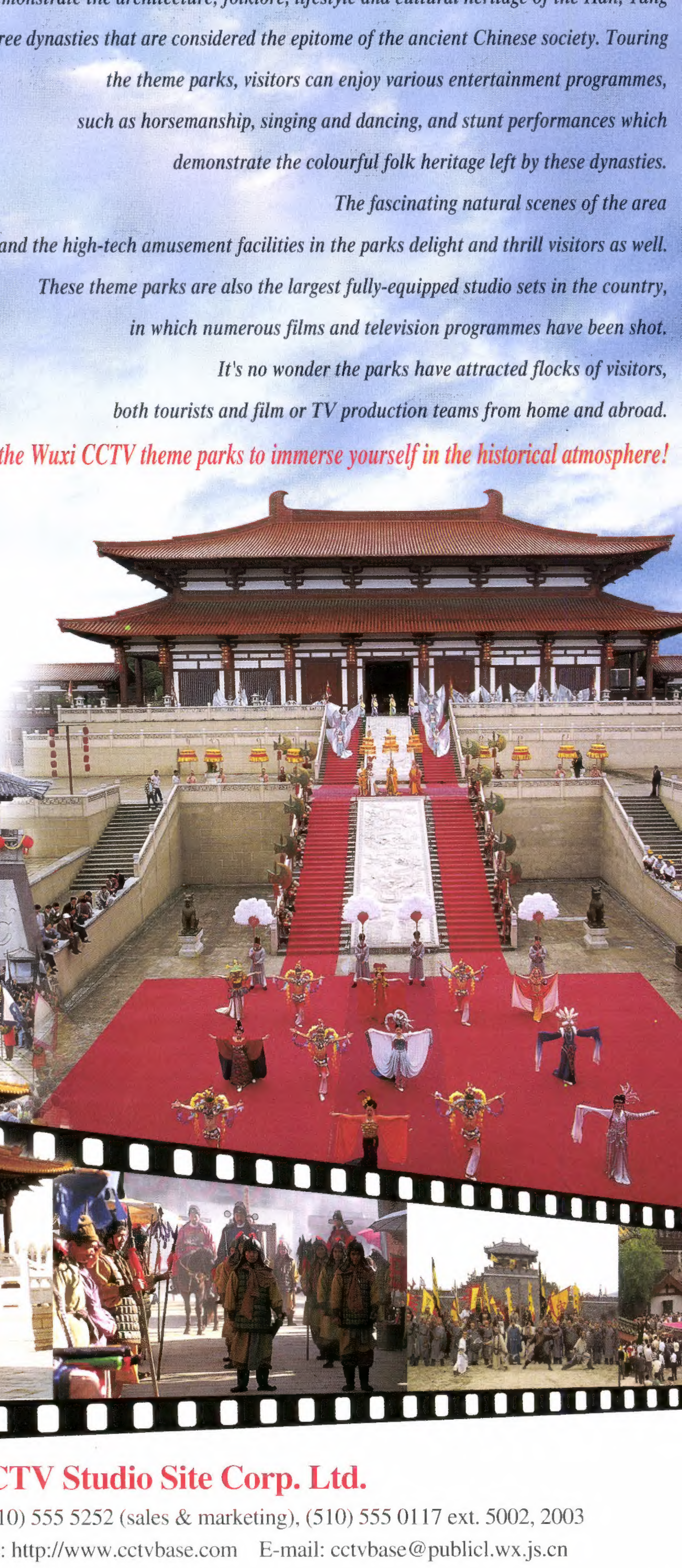

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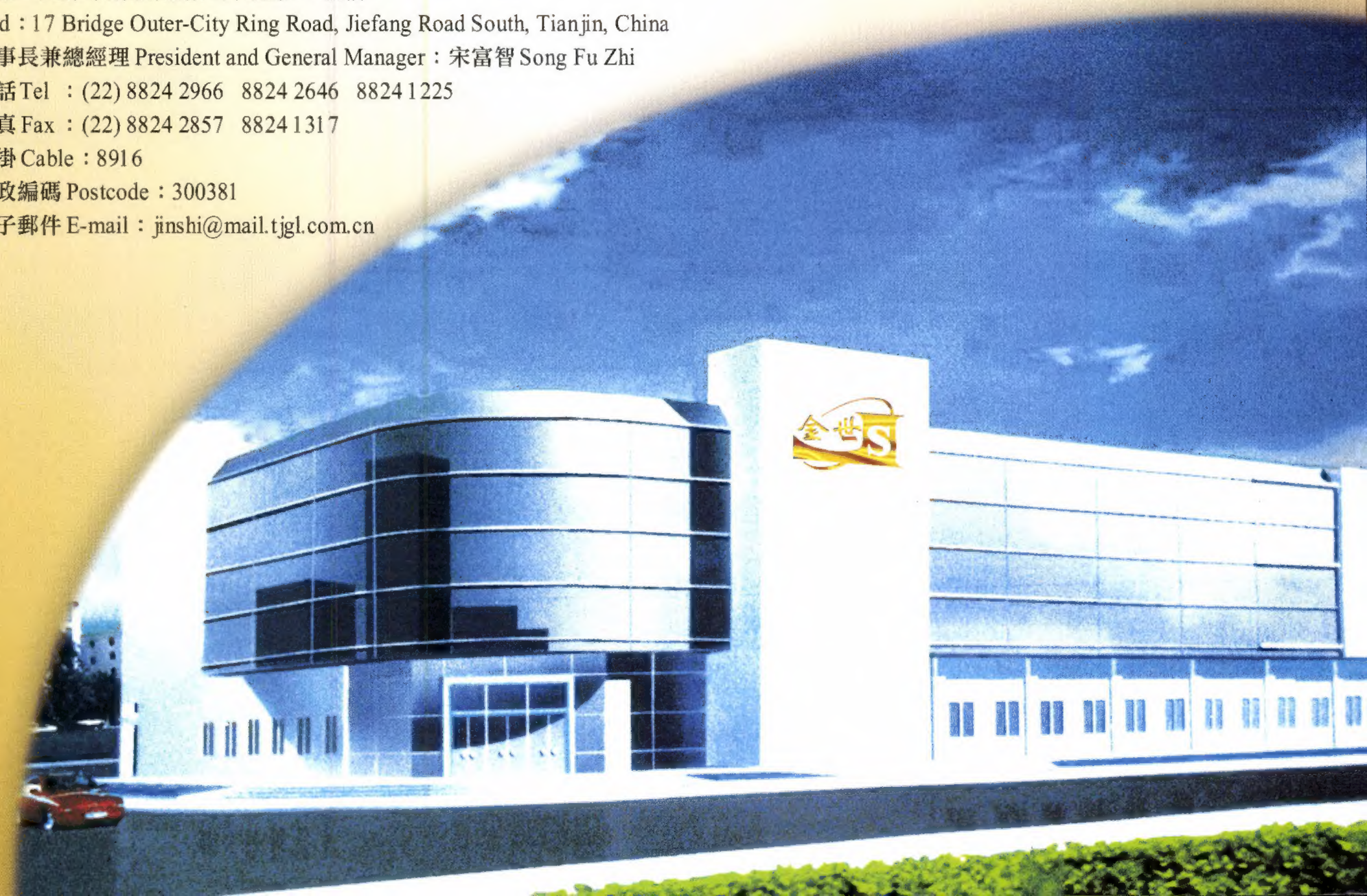

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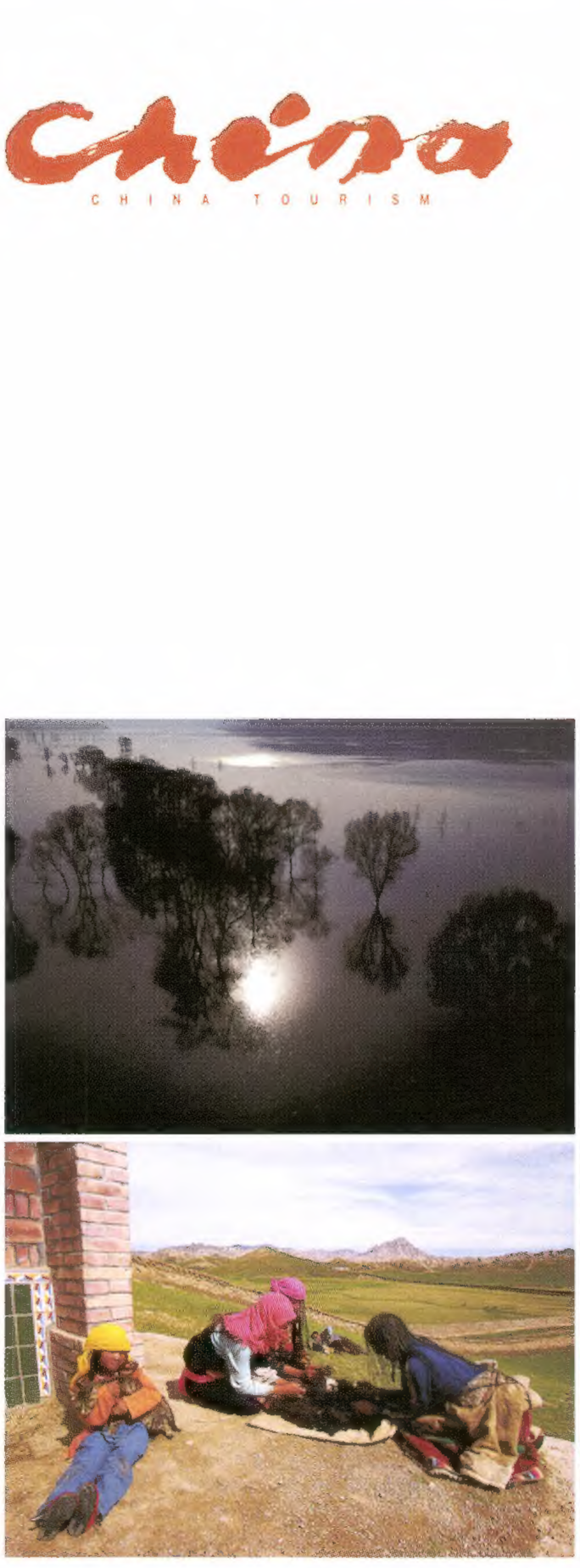
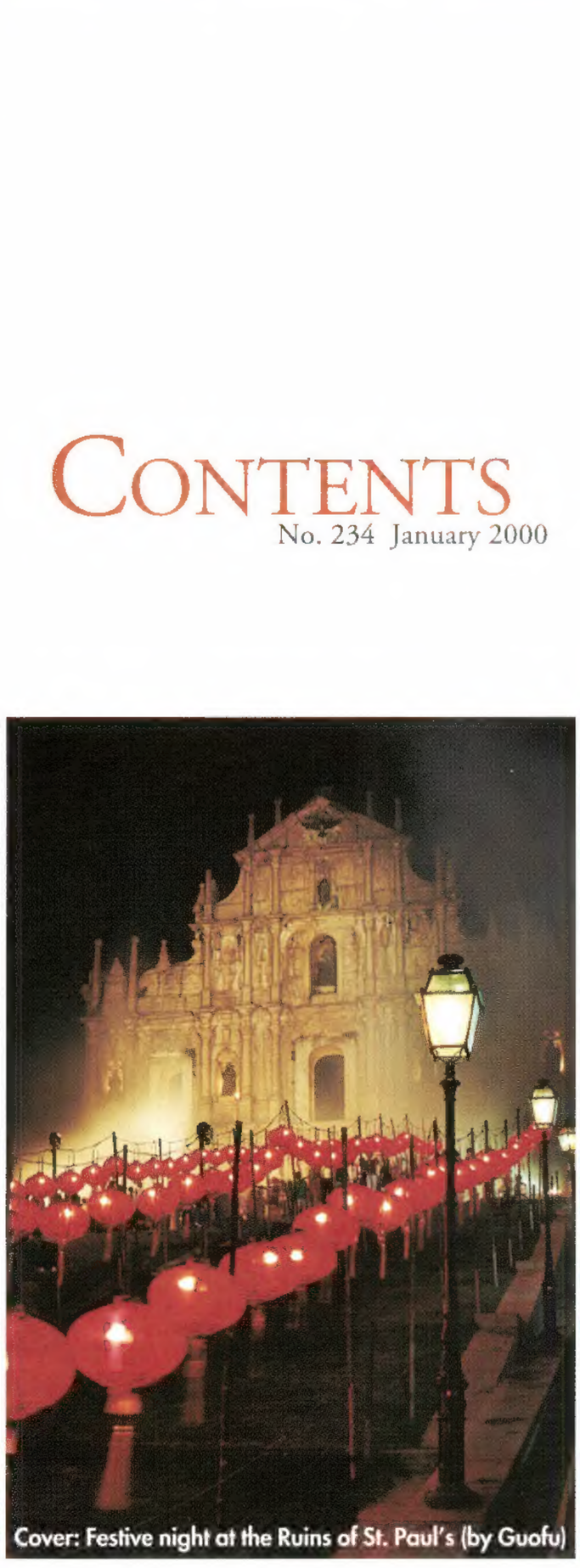
China
CHINA TOURISM

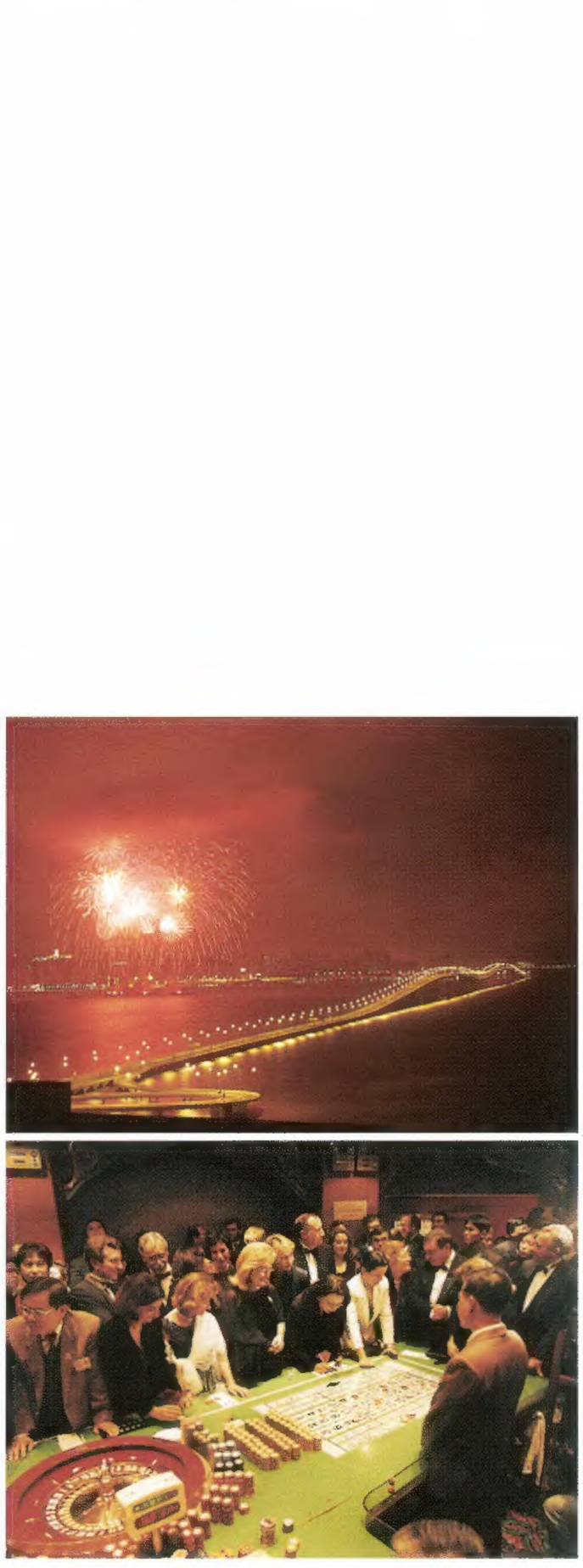
CONTENTS

No. 234 January 2000





Cover: Festive night at the Ruins of St. Paul's (by Guofu)



9 From the Editor
Macao: Moving Forward

10 Update

12 Travel Notes

14 Feature Story
Macao: Mixing Cultures Over 400 Years
Article by Huang Yanhong
Around the end of this century, on December 20, 1999, Macao caught the attention of the whole world. After more than 400 years under the rule of Portugal, the sovereignty of this small city of 20 square kilometres was handed back to China. Known as the Monte Carlo or Las Vegas of the East, Macao is famous for its casinos. But, once in Macao, the traveller would find that Macao has much more than casinos to offer. It is a place of cultural understanding, where the Eastern and Western cultures absorb and adapt to each other while progressing with their own distinguished characteristics. A series of stories introduce the life, history, museums, walking routes and scenic spots in Macao.

38 Photo Admiration
Woods on the Yellow River in Winter
Photos by Zheng Yunfeng Article by Li Wu

42 Food Delights
Stewed Food in Taoyuan
Photos & article by Xiao Gang

44 Discoveries
The Mystery of Qaidam Basin
Photos by Jiang Weizhou Article by Bai Yu
Qaidam Basin in Northwest China's Qinghai Province is not all wilderness, as imagined by many. Hidden in its magnificent mountains and pastures are numerous attractive scenic spots and places of historical and cultural interest. On the Cypress Hills you can see trees aged over 1,000 years; in the Salt Lake, you walk on a "salt bridge" without knowing it; and you can sail on a natural reed raft in a unique refreshing experience. Furthermore, there is the Kunlun Mountains which is considered as the birthplace of Taoism.

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China
CHINA TOURISM

CONTENTS

No. 234 January 2000

64 Selected Tours
Celebrating the Millennium at the Turn of the Century

68 Customs
Hair-Do Competition of the Lisu
Photos & article by Song Ming

69 New Scenic Spot
Stone Forest on the Grassland in Inner Mongolia
Photos & article by Wang Aifeng

70 Culture
An Ingenious Carver of Sea Rocks
Article by Yu Shouyi

74 New Attractions
Xiaomeisha: The Ocean World of Shenzhen
Photos & article by Li Wu

76 Adventures
Trip to a Garden of Eden
Photos & article by Zhang Mingji

80 Book Review
The Silk Road

81 Shopping
The Home of Silverware
Photos & article by Liu Fengqun

82 Traveller's Corner
Wandering Through Jilin and Harbin
Photos & article by Pierre Wong

85 Next Issue

86 Executive's Memo

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Publisher: **HK CHINA TOURISM PRESS**
24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2561 8001 Fax: (852) 2561 8057 2561 8196
E-mail address: chinat@hkstar.com
Editorial Dept., Business Dept., Advertising Dept., Sales Dept. Tel: (852) 2561 8001
China Tourism Photo Library Tel: (852) 2561 8001
Hong Kong China Tourism Ltd. (Licence No. 351850) Tel: (852) 2516 9228
Printer: **C & C Offset Printing Co. Ltd.**
C & C Building, 36 Ting Lai Road, Tai Po, N.T. Tel: (852) 2666 4988

Agencies: **Australia** Gordon and Gotch Ltd., 25-37 Huntingdale Road, Burwood, Victoria 3125 • **Belgium** Sun Wah Supermarket • **Brazil** Comercio Impotdora Konmin Ltd. • **Canada** Sun Wa Bookstore, Toronto; Van China Trade Centre Ltd., Vancouver • **China** National Publications Import & Export Corp., Beijing • **England** Guanghwa Company Ltd., London • **France** Europasie S.A.R.L., Paris • **Holland** Ming Ya, Amsterdam • **Hong Kong** Foreign Press Distributors Ltd. • **Japan** Koyosha Co. Ltd., Tokyo • **Macau** Starlight Bookstore Ltd.; The World Book Company; Plaza Cultural Macau Ltd. • **Malaysia** Pustaka Lively, Tawau, Sabah • **Singapore** International Book(s) Pte. Ltd. • **Thailand** Chew Hong Service Ltd., Bangkok • **The Philippines** Good Quality Merchandising, Manila • **U.S.A.** China Periodical Distribution, Los Angeles; Oriental Culture Enterprise Co., New York; China Daily Distribution Corp., New York

China Advertising License: ICAD006
News-stand price: HK$38
Printed in Hong Kong

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FROM THE EDITOR

Macao: Moving Forward

The world's spotlight was on Macao at the end of the 20th century: on December 20, 1999, the sovereignty of Macao was handed back to its motherland. To celebrate this special occasion, we present a feature story on Macao in which the various scenes of this small city are unfolded.

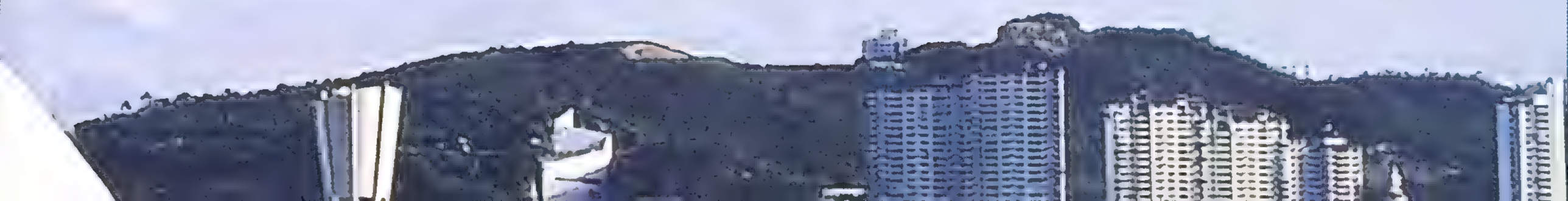
In most people's minds, Macao is the Monte Carlo of the East. In fact, apart from gambling, Macao has many more interesting aspects. Its colourful Chinese and Western festivals, mouth-watering Portuguese dishes, breath-taking Grand Prix races, together with its renowned scenic spots such as the A-Ma Temple, Ruins of St. Paul's Church, Monte Fort, Museum of Macao, and even the two Macao-Taipa bridges, all strive to express the magic of this city, a meeting place of both the old and new, and the East and West.

Leaving Macao, we bring you a close encounter with nature — the Qaidam Basin in Northwest China's Qinghai Province. Qinghai Plateau reminds people of wilderness, glaciers and altitude sickness. The Qaidam Basin, nevertheless, has quite a different ambience: vast expanses of vegetation are nestled in the towering mountains and oases are embedded in the desert. This marvellous trip will help you see the power of Mother Nature and uncover the mystery of the exotic Qaidam Basin.

As the year 2000 is just around the corner, we include as well some of the wonderful programmes which will be held in various parts of China to celebrate the arrival of the new millennium. We hope this will give you some hints where to welcome the exciting moment with your family and friends.

Finally, on behalf of China Tourism Press, we wish you all the best in the year 2000!

Photo by Shan Xiaogang



Longest Railway Tunnel in China

China's longest railway tunnel has been built on the Xi'an-Ankang Railway in Shaanxi Province. Running 18.46 kilometres, the tunnel ranks the second longest in Asia and the sixth in the world. It goes through the Qinling Range, which represents the demarcation line between northern and southern Chinese climate and the watershed between the Yangtse and Yellow rivers. Two parallel single-track tunnels have been laid in the tunnel, 30 metres apart.

It took the engineers eight years to come up with this plan that allows the tunnel to pass through five big faults in the shortest possible way. Construction of the railway began at the end of 1997 and will be completed in 2000. The government will invest a total of 10 billion yuan (US$1.2 billion) in the railway that cuts through the middle section of the Qinling Range. The tunnel alone has cost 2 billion yuan (US$240 million).

The Xi'an-Ankang Railway will form a north-south trunk railway in the mid-western area of China. It will connect the Langzhou-Lianyungang Railway in the north with the Xiangfan-Chongqing Railway and Baoji-Chengdu Railway in the south. By going through the tunnel, a journey from Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi Province, to Ankang in the southern tip of the province will be shortened from 18 hours to three hours.

Han-dynasty Emperor's Tomb Massive Terracotta Figures Unearthed

The excavation of the mausoleum of a Han-dynasty emperor has shocked the world again with another great archaeological discovery. The pleasant surprise brought by this tomb is no less than that of the terracotta army found in Emperor Qin Shihuang's tomb of more than 2,000 years ago.

Situated in Zhengyang Town in the suburbs of Xianyang, Shaanxi Province, the tomb belonged to Liu Qi (Jingdi), the fourth emperor of Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), and his empress. In the mausoleum's 90 pits are buried a terracotta army as massive as that found in Emperor Qin Shihuang's tomb. These terracotta figures are 60 centimetres high, painted in colour, and had wooden arms fixed on. Though all nude, they show traces of having worn silk clothes. Compared with the terracotta warriors of the Qin tomb, these earthen soldiers, which were produced a few dozen years later, are more exquisitely made and reflect the art style of Chu, a state in the middle reaches of the Yangtse River, where Liu Bang, the first emperor of the Han Dynasty grew up. Also found in this Han-dynasty tomb is a round stone compass of one metre in diameter, which is believed to be the oldest of its kind in existence. This serves as another confirmation that the Chinese were the first in the world to use a compass.

The mausoleum covers an area of 200 hectares. The mound of Emperor Jingdi's tomb is in the shape of a pyramid and surrounded with a wall of rammed earth totalling 420 metres in length. Besides the terracotta figures, many other burial articles have been excavated. The discovery of this tomb has provided important references for the study of the Han Dynasty, including its imperial system and burial customs.

Excavation of this Han tomb started in 1990 and an underground museum will be built at the site.

Zhoushan Islands Attract More Visitors

The islands of Zhoushan lying in the East China Sea off the coast of East China's Zhejiang Province received 4 million visitors from home and abroad in the past year. On these islands totalling 1,257 square kilometres, there are over 1,000 scenic spots, including two state-level scenic resorts. Zhujiajian boasts the world's "best sand" and "most beautiful beach". Putuo Island is a famous Buddhist land that attracts thousands of pilgrims every year.

Known for its fishing industry, the economy of Zhoushan is growing rapidly. It has the country's largest deep-water port with 250,000 tonnage berths, and new communication projects are under construction — the Putuo Airport and the Zhujiajian Bridge. Construction of another bridge, which crosses the sea to link the island with the mainland, will soon begin, at a cost of 5.7 billion yuan (US$686 million).

New Look of Yuanmingyuan

Yuanmingyuan, the Qing-dynasty imperial garden, which was built in 1707 and looted and burnt by the French and British armies in 1860, had remained in ruins for over a century. Now, after a large-scale greening project and partial rearrangement, it has reopened to the public with a new look.

The renovated Yuanmingyuan covers 200 hectares, and surrounds a newly-built exhibition centre. In the Fuhai (Happy Sea) zone, pleasure boats can be hired. Changchun Garden, densely covered with woods, is where visitors find tranquil natural scenes. The newly built Qichunyuan Square is spacious and magnificent, with man-made fountains. Many old landscapes in front of the water have resumed their original splendour.

Lions Clubs Visiting Yunnan

Lions Clubs Hong Kong has joined the Sight First China Action (SFCA) in a recent programme to conduct sight-restoring surgery for 1,000 cataract patients in some remote areas in Southwest China's Yunnan Province, including Lijiang, Chuxiong and Dêqên. A Lions delegation from Hong Kong paid a visit to the medical team and cataract patients in Yunnan.

SFCA is a five-year programme launched in 1997, with a fund of US$169.38 million, of which US$154 million is from the Chinese government and US$15.38 is from the Lions Clubs International Foundation. Up to now 92 medical teams composed of ophthalmic experts, doctors and nurses from various cities and provinces of China have been dispatched to remote and rural areas across the country to treat patients, train medical personnel and help update grass-level clinic equipment.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organisation with 1.4 million members in more than 44,500 clubs in 185 countries and regions.

Shanghai Airlines Adds Flights to Macao

Shanghai Airlines increased its Shanghai-Macao flights from two to four a week to meet the growing demands of passengers. Flights depart from Shanghai at 9:25 on Monday and Wednesday and 9:10 on Friday and Sunday and return from Macao at 15:05. It is serviced by B757 and B767 aircraft. In addition, the company has cooperated with Taiwan's EVA Air and Trans Asia Airways so that passengers can check in once with one ticket when changing planes to Taibei and Gaoxiong.

Birds Park in Kunming

A new park, the Cherished Bird Garden, has been launched on a hill near the World Horticultural Expo Garden in Kunming, Yunnan Province. Covering 3.2 hectares, the park has a pool, grasslands, and trees and various grain plants to provide a refuge and feed to the birds. There is no cage in the park, so the birds can freely fly in and out. But so far, none of the birds raised by the park has fled, possibly because of the good natural environment and sufficient food provided there. Currently, birds of a dozen species are accommodated in the park, including green peacocks, white and black swans, egrets, manikins and terns. There is also a special inhabitant, a big owl, who kills mice in the garden. The garden plans to increase its number of birds to 10,000 of 50 varieties.

WWII Military Fort Opens to Tourists

Dongning Fort, built during World War II by the Japanese invaders with forced Chinese labour, is now open to the public. Located in Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province on the Sino-Russian border, this is the largest military fort in Asia. The 10 sites discovered so far are scattered over an area 50 kilometres long and 92 kilometres wide. Built underground, the fort consists of headquarters, power generating room, ammunition depot, communications centre and facilities for water and heat supply. A great number of weapons made in Japan, including bacteriological shells, gas bombs, cannon balls, bombs, land mines, anti-tank grenades and guns, were discovered in the fort. There is also a mass grave where more than 4,000 Chinese labourers were buried.

The Dongning Fort and the mass grave have been developed into tourist spots and will be put under provincial protection as important cultural relics.

Large Tourist Area to Be Built Around Jiayuguan

Jiayuguan Pass, the west end of the 6,700-kilometre-long Great Wall, will develop a large tourist area. The city of Jiayuguan will invest 20 million yuan in the project, including constructing a 4,000-sqaure-metre Great Wall Museum, an ancient market with classic Northwestern residential houses, a children's camping ground and holiday villages.

Jiayuguan is the largest and best preserved pass on the Ming-dynasty Great Wall. A strategic passage on the ancient Silk Road, it is located at the western end of the Hexi Corridor in Northwest China's Gansu Province. The imposing tower of the pass, together with the surrounding desert and the distant snow-capped mountains, has made Jiayuguan Pass a great site of interest. In the vicinity, many other scenic and historical attractions can be found, such as the stone carvings at Heishan, the hanging section of the Great Wall, tomb murals of the Wei and Jin dynasties, and Qiyi Glacier which, so far, is the glacier found closest to an Asian city.

News

Galaxy Hotel — Quality Always Comes First

Shanghai

The four-star Galaxy Hotel in Shanghai is proud to announce that it was recently awarded the ISO 9002 certificate, making it the first hotel in Shanghai receiving this honour.

In order to stand out from the competitors and to develop into a hotel of international level, Galaxy Hotel took a critical step to set up a comprehensive quality control system. This decision ensured that the hotel improves not only its catering and customer services, but its management as well.

The hotel used the ISO as a standard for its improvement. Mr. Zhao Renrong, the general manager of Galaxy Hotel, revealed that it is a method to upgrade the hotel to meet the international criteria.

Providing top services is always of the first concern of Galaxy Hotel. The attainment of the ISO 9002 certification rewarded the hotel's determination and confidence in improving the quality of its services.

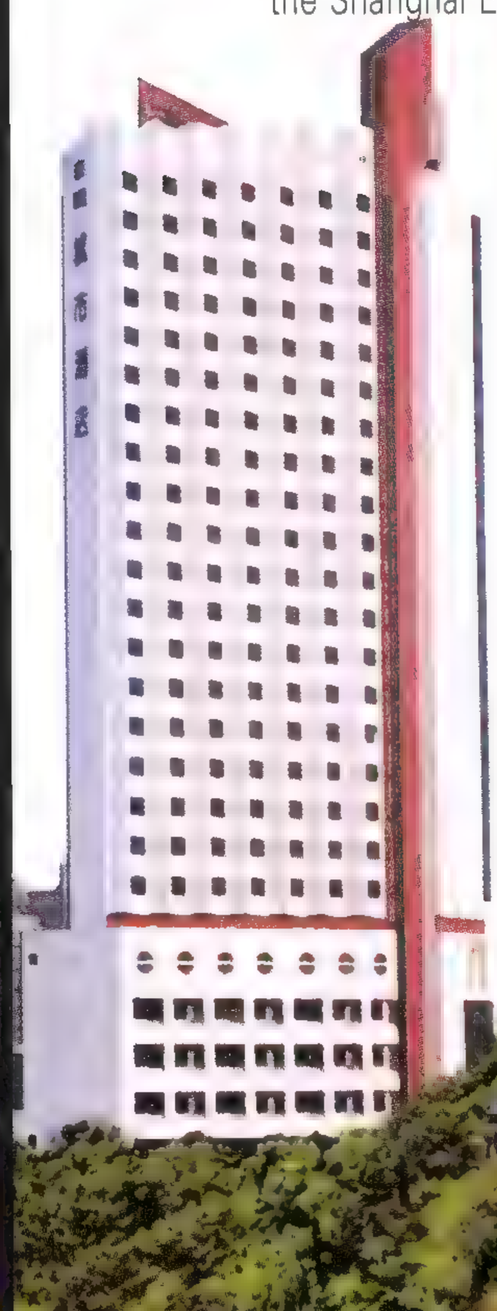
Hotel

City Hotel Shanghai

Shanghai

City Hotel Shanghai is a joint venture between Shanghai and Hong Kong. A three-star hotel offering four-star enjoyment and five-star services, City Hotel has been doing a brisk business since its opening 10 years ago; its occupation rate ranks first in Shanghai.

Located conveniently in downtown Shanghai, City Hotel is at the centre of the network of several major commercial streets, and is only a 10-minute walk from Nanjing Road West and Huaihai Road Central, two prosperous shopping streets in the city. It is also in the vicinity of the Shanghai Exhibition Centre. Apart from that, the hotel is on the route of airport buses. City Hotel is particularly favourable for business travellers.



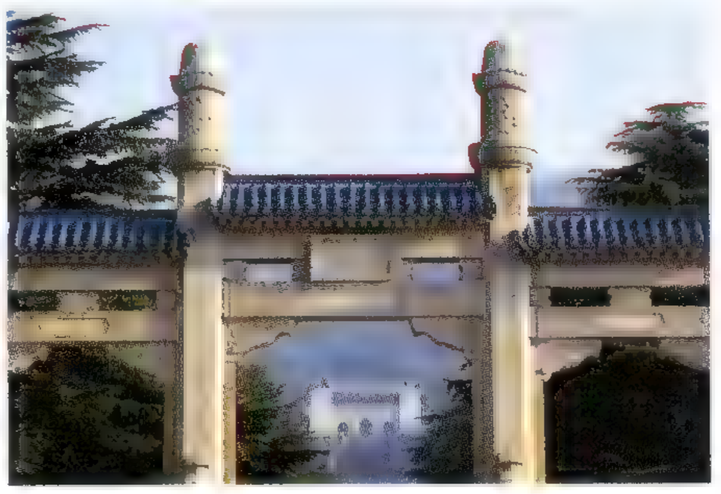
City Hotel offers different types of guestrooms, including standard rooms, deluxe rooms and suites, for its discerning guests to choose from. Gourmets will definitely be satisfied with the authentic Shanghai cuisine served in one of the hotel's restaurants. In spring, the restaurant launches typical Shanghai dishes such as fried river shrimps with cucumber and braised carp with bamboo shoots. In autumn, the restaurant offers a crab banquet to attract seafood lovers. Of course, City Hotel also has a Western restaurant and a Sichuan restaurant to cater for different tastes.

Address: 5-7, Shaanxi Road South, Shanghai
Tel: (21) 6255 1133

News

Zhongshan Mausoleum Scenic Area Restored

Nanjing



The most expensive infrastructure construction project of Nanjing's Zhongshan Mausoleum Scenic Area since its foundation, the Zhongshan Mausoleum transportation network reconstruction and environmental improvement, finally came to an end.

Having a history of more than 70 years, Zhongshan Mausoleum is a travel destination of prime political and historical status. In recent years, the scenic area received an average of 5 million visitors annually, which has given rise to problems such as insufficient facilities and traffic congestion. Considering all these, a series of renovation works were carried out since early 1999, including large-scale reconstruction on the Lingyuan Road, Square of Zhongshan Gate and Mingling Road, as well as afforestation projects in various locations.

It is worth noting that major afforestation programmes have taken place along the main road of the scenic area: both sides of the three-kilometre road is covered with greenery five metres wide, totalling an area of 40,000 square metres. A new parking lot with 400 spaces has been added to facilitate visitors.

Hotel

Panyu Hotel — the Stopover on Your Business Trip

Panyu Hotel is the largest and most well-appointed four-star hotel in Panyu, in suburban Guangzhou. With customers from adjacent Hong Kong, Macao and Guangzhou, the hotel gains marks for its favourable location. Every day, a dozen coaches and luxury passenger cruises go to and fro between the hotel and Hong Kong. Moreover, it is only a 30-minute drive from Panyu Hotel to the Guangzhou Commodities Exchange Centre.

Panyu Hotel is equipped with 260 standard guestrooms and deluxe suites. It has four Chinese and Western restaurants, a McDonald's, a bar and a cafe which can serve a total of 2,300 guests at one time. Its also offers a whole range of amusement facilities to meet customers' varied demands. Business travellers will find it extremely convenient staying in Panyu Hotel because it is equipped with conference halls of different sizes and a business centre, and it provides services such as plane, rail and ship ticket reservations, and car rental.

Address: 130 Dabei Road, Shiqiao Town, Panyu, Guangdong Province Tel: (20) 8482 2127

Event

Warring States Treasures on Display

Hong Kong

This is a golden opportunity for people of Hong Kong to understand more of Chinese culture and to broaden their historical horizon. Jointly presented by the Provisional Urban Council of Hong Kong, the Art Exhibitions China and the Bureau of Culture of Hebei Province, the exhibition of Warring States Treasures: Cultural Relics from the State of Zhongshan, Hebei Province, is now open to the public at the Hong Kong Museum of Art until January 9, 2000.

The exhibition features 102 historical relics and exquisite artefacts of a mysterious ancient Chinese state, Zhongshan, of the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.). The exhibits are classified into four categories, namely bronze, jade, stone and pottery. Over 20 percent of them are considered first-class national treasures. These precious relics are records of the superb craftsmanship of a northern nomadic culture as well as the daily life and customs of the period.

News

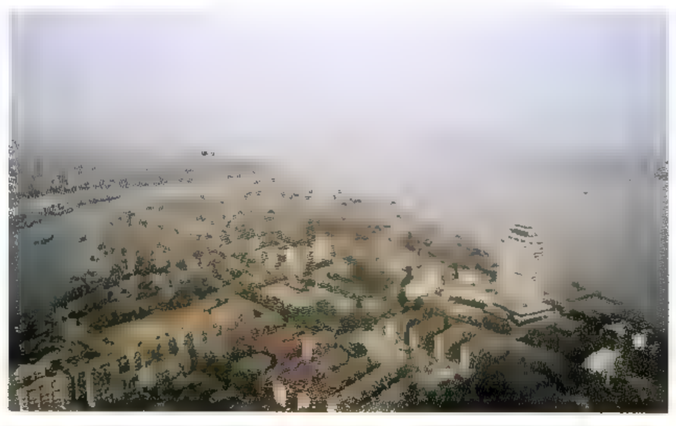
Wuhan's No.1 Business Street Renovated

Wuhan

The busiest section of the 100-year-old Zhongshan Boulevard in Wuhan, Hubei Province, has emerged with a new look after large-scale renovation work. Starting from Liuduqiao to Jianghan Road, this section has restored its former glory as the number one commercial area in the city.

Zhongshan Boulevard has been the most important street in Wuhan since the end of the Qing Dynasty. It developed into the hub of commerce in Central China and earned its fame for its prosperity. In an effort to prevent any further deterioration, the Wuhan municipal government gave the go-ahead for the project in March 1999. After restoration, Zhongshan Boulevard still retains its valuable historical relics.

A brand new commercial area well equipped with modern communication and transportation facilities, the Zhongshan Boulevard is going to attract business people and visitors from all over.



News

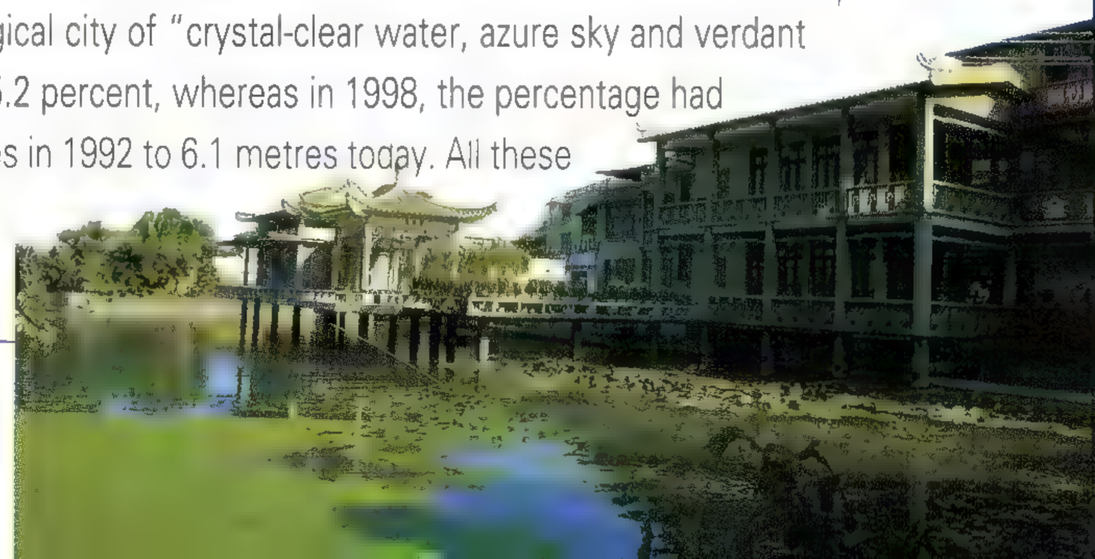
Foshan: Another National Garden City

Foshan

Having been assessed by acclaimed national and provincial experts in afforestation, and examined and approved by the Ministry of Construction, Foshan in Guangdong Province has been recently named a National Garden City.

In recent years, Foshan has launched a programme to modify itself into an ecological city of "crystal-clear water, azure sky and verdant vegetation". In 1992, the vegetation coverage in the city's urban area accounted for 25.2 percent, whereas in 1998, the percentage had increased to 35.2. The public green area per capita has also risen from four square metres in 1992 to 6.1 metres today. All these improvements justify Foshan's qualifications in being selected a National Garden City.

Other National Garden Cities in Guangdong are Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Zhongshan.



Macao

Mixing Cultures Over 400 Years

1. Macao Peninsula viewed from the air (by Xiao Hong)
2. A market selling pigs in the 19th century
3. The International Fireworks Competition is held in Macao annually. (by Xiao Hong)
4. A sketch map of Macao drawn before 1598

Main photo: The square in front of the City Hall is a popular activity venue. (by Huang Yanhong)

Macao is a small city of just over 20 square kilometres, but it is a very unusual place.

It takes only an hour by boat to get there from where I live. On my first, hurried trip there my only impression of this city well-known for its gambling was that the Hotel Lisboa resembled a bird cage. Inside its casino I felt as if I was walking into a movie where big gamblers were lost in tne heat of their games.

1. A lamp commonly found on the streets (by Li Dan)
2. Exquisitely decorated windows on a Chinese building (by Xiao Hong)
3. A window demonstrating the Portuguese style of architecture (by Xiao Hong)
4. This circular stick of incense found in a temple can last for a week. (by Huang Yanhong)
5. Candles in a church with donors' names written on them (by Huang Yanhong)
6. Inside a small temple on Coloane (by Huang Yanhong)
7. The statue on top of the Our Lady of Penha Chapel (by Liu Yang)
8. Door-knockers like these are rarely seen today. (by Xiao Hong)
9. A building of typical Portuguese architectural style (by Xiao Hong)

During the 1999 Spring Festival in February, I discovered that Macao is actually a three-dimensional city. Its culture, religious features and architecture can hardly be embraced by the word "gambling".

History seems to have intentionally chosen a small fishing village at the mouth of the Pearl River and staged a countless number of legendary dramas there over the last 400 years, such as the Goddess A-Ma displaying her divine power; the Portuguese bribing Manchu officials to land on the territory; missionaries building churches; the emergence of the Macanese as a special group; the city becoming the centre of Far Eastern trade; Lin Zexu making a city tour; the Sino-American Treaty of Wangxia; the legalisation of gambling... Over the centuries, Macao has experienced prosperity and decline, glory and humiliation, and all the joys and sorrows of life.

As the earliest landing place of Western culture along the Chinese coast, Macao has given birth to a unique local culture. The dissemination of religions, the meeting of East and West, the unusual composition of the population and the fact that Macao was almost untouched by war for several centuries... all have provided special conditions for the birth and development of Macao's culture. It is like the confluence of clear and muddy rivers. The distinction is clear at the confluence, but as they flow downstream, it becomes less and less clear.

An important event is coming up — China will resume its exercise of sovereignty over Macao. It marks not only the coming of a new age of Macao but also the end of Western colonial rule in the whole of Asia.

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Traditional Gambling Games

In Macao, known as the Eastern Monte Carlo, gambling, or playing the numbers, has never declined over the last 300 years. After losing its central position in Far Eastern trade, gambling gave Macao a new lease on life. From 1847, after the Portuguese government in Macao legalised gambling, taxes on gambling have always been the government's main source of revenue.

Gambling became widespread in Macao in the mid-19th century and was connected with the coolie trade. Coolie traffickers used gambling as bait. After the Chinese labourers had lost all they had, including their person, they were sold abroad as coolies. At that time shipping of slave labourers became a regular trade and Macao was the largest coolie export port in the world.

Even the gambling games in Macao represent the merging and exchange between East and West. In the early days, there were only Chinese games, such as mahjong, Chinese dominoes, dice games and many kinds of lotteries — Mountain, Shop and White Dove — as well as cock, bird and cricket fights.

A picture painted in 1900 shows how prevalent gambling was in Macao then. It depicts a group of gamblers sitting around a big square table, putting down their wagers. Four large characters written on the wall behind the banker say: "Win the money of all the players." In the book, *Macao: A Nest of Bandits*, Zheng Guanying, an early revolutionary, wrote about gambling in Macao around the year 1860. He said that there were over 2,000 gambling houses where mahjong and other games were played. The Central Hotel built in 1928 became a crowded gambling centre. Rich gamblers sat upstairs and, while sipping tea and eating melon seeds, watched the gambling tables downstairs. As requested, the waiters would put their stakes in a small basket and lower it down on a rope to the tables below.

The Annual Wagering Ceremony

Gambling in Macao has been gradually Westernised since the 1960s. Together with the introduction of over 20 Western gambling games, such as baccarat, black jack and slot machines, the traditional gambling culture has modernised into multi-faceted enterprises. A total of over 600 slot machines and 100 gambling tables now exist in Macao's eight casinos. Besides casinos, there are now dog and horse racing ventures, and Jai Alai, added in 1980.

In fact, ordinary Macao residents rarely step into the casinos and civil servants are prohibited from gambling. The prohibition is relaxed only during the Spring Festival (Chinese New Year). With the crowd at the Hotel Lisboa on New Year's Eve I witnessed the annual Wagering Ceremony. Mr. Vasco Rocha Vieira, the Governor of Macao, accompanied by Stanley Ho, owner of the Sociedade de Turismo e Diversoes de Macau, and notable businessmen, stood at a large table and put down the first bet to bring good luck for the new year and to show that gambling is legal in Macao.

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A long-serving civil servant in Macao told me that the casinos present little appeal to the ordinary people of Macao. Instead, traditional mahjong enjoys far wider popularity among the local people. The bets are always small and it is played for amusement — on the street, in people's houses, almost everywhere. Mahjong is not only favoured by the Chinese, but also by the Macanese. Occasionally bird fights take place on Macao's streets, [illegible] small bets to encourage t[illegible]

1. Bird-fighting is a local gambling game. (by Mao Jianjun)
2. Stanley Ho, the Tycoon of Gambling in Macao's gambling industry (by Mao Jianjun)
3. Ordinary Macao people seldom go to casinos; they prefer to play mahjong at home. (by Mao Jianjun)
4. At the annual Wagering Ceremony at Hotel Lisboa (by Mao Jianjun)

Main photo: Hotel Lisboa houses the largest casino in Macao. (by Huang Yanhong)

Celebrating Both Eastern and Western Festivals

On my second day in Macao, a friend took me to see the early activities on Valentine's Day, February 14. At the Rua das Lorchas, the passenger jetty was already crowded with people as a large number of flower growers from Zhuhai had arrived. Waiting on the roadside were flower merchants, who later bought numerous bunches. There were also peddlers selling flowers from wheelbarrows or baskets along the street. The Zhuhai flower growers delivered their flowers every morning but that day were doing a far more brisk business.

All day the streets were fragrant and filled with a tender atmosphere as sweethearts snuggled together. Every flower shop was visited by a steady stream of buyers. When night fell, cosy restaurants with a romantic atmosphere were all filled with sweethearts.

In Macao, there are two other Lovers' Festivals: the Chinese Double Seven Festival (seventh day, seventh lunar month) and Lantern Festival (15th day, first lunar month).

A large number of festivals are observed in Macao. Officially recognised festivals total 25, including both Eastern and Western ones, excluding the many other folk activities. Besides believers, there are also some people who celebrate all festivals just for fun.

Besides the important festivals, such as the Spring Festival, New Year, Lantern, Clear and Bright, Dragon Boat, Mid-Autumn and Double Ninth festivals, there are also many regional ones. The Guanyin Opening the Treasure-trove (26th day, first lunar month) is celebrated by believers burning incense in the temples; on the Birthday of the Village God (second day, second lunar month) Guangdong Operas are showed in the neighbourhoods; the Birthday of Tin Hau (23rd day, third lunar month) is one of the most warmly celebrated festivals; and the Birthday of the Buddha (eighth day, fourth lunar month), an important day for the Buddhist believers, is celebrated with performance of the Drunken Dragon Dance. The birthdays of Lord Guan (13th day, fifth lunar month), Guanyin (19th day, sixth lunar month) and Huaguan (28th day, ninth month) are also days of festivities.

Western festivals such as Christmas, Easter Day, and Mother's and Father's days are warmly celebrated here too.

Each God or Goddess Performs a Duty

Many of the festivals celebrated in Macao are religious rituals or include religious rituals in the celebration.

Regarding religion, Macao is a very special place. While differences in religious beliefs give rise to countless conflicts and wars worldwide, various religions have existed peacefully side by side in Macao for several hundred years. For example, when Macao's new international airport started operation, a solemn celebration was held, presided over by a Catholic priest and a Buddhist monk together. Each read the scripture of his

1. Sculpture of an ancient Chinese warrior in a temple (by Li Dan)
2. A statue in St. Augustine's Church (by Li Zhixiong)
3. Kun Iam Temple is frequented by enthusiastic visitors.
4. A devoted Mass goer (by Li Zhixiong)
5. Monks praying at the opening ceremony of the Macao International Airport (by Jia Guorong)
6. A Catholic ceremony held outside the St. Dominic's Church (by Jia Guorong)
7. Worshipping the Heavenly Goddess in the Temple of A-Ma on the Chinese New Year's Day (by Huang Yanhong)
8. The procession of the Lord of Passion parade starting at the Cathedral (by Huang Yanhong)

faith and each prayed for peace and safety of the new airport.

Besides Buddhism and Catholicism, there are also Protestantism, Taoism, Confucianism, Islam, Hinduism and Bahaism in Macao. Apart from images of the principal religions, there are also those of Lord Bao, Lord Guan, Grand Duke Jiang, Nü Wa, Lord Tan, Village God, God of Wealth, and Lu Ban, the master carpenter. It was in Macao that, for the first time, I heard about the Third Aunt, the third sister of Tin Hau. These gods and goddesses all gather in Macao, each performing his or her own duties to satisfy their worshippers' various needs.

There are over 40 Chinese temples and around two dozen churches spread all over Macao. This count does not include many small shrines of the Village God built on the roadside.

The three leading temples in Macao are A-Ma Temple, Kun Iam (Guanyin) Temple and Lin Fong (Lotus Peak) Temple. The A-Ma Temple, built in 1488, has many legends behind. The Portuguese word, Macao, is actually the transliteration of Ma-Gao, the Cantonese name for the A-Ma Temple, thus making it the only city in the world named after the goddess.

On the Chinese New Year's Day, the annual worshipping of the goddess A-Ma had begun in earnest, with long queues to burn incense. Even the following morning a dense crowd formed both inside and outside the temple. Firecrackers popped everywhere. I could hardly open my eyes in the thick smoke of gunpowder and incense. To attract the attention of A-Ma, the worshippers put up increasingly large incense sticks, some as wide as a bowl and two metres tall. A few people who arrived by car had their huge incense sticks shooting out of the windows like the gun barrels on tanks.

A Holy Parade

Macao was the earliest landing place and disseminating base

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of Western culture. Since Catholicism is the national religion of Portugal, Macao became the earliest Catholic missionary centre in the Far East. Many of the churches there are old and famous. The Cathedral, the centre of the Macao diocese, is the most influential one. St. Lawrence's, St. Dominic's and Our Lady of Carmel are among the oldest churches.

Macao's Catholics engage in many religious activities. The Our Lady of Fatima parade is held annually on May 13 or October 13. There is also the annual Our Lord of Passion parade, which starts with a Saturday evening procession carrying the statue of Jesus Christ from St. Augustine's Church to the Cathedral for an all-night vigil. The following day, the statue is solemnly carried back to St. Augustine's.

1. **Macao's streets are filled with small restaurants and snack shops. (by Xiao Hong)**

2. **There are also many Western restaurants. (by Shan Xiaogang)**
3. **Life in an old lane (by Huang Yanhong)**
4. **A neighbourhood of the Macanese (by Xiao Hong)**
5. **Traditional Chinese clothes are loved by Macao citizens. (by Li Dan)**
6. **Portuguese children (by Huang Yanhong)**
7. **Enjoying a leisurely life (by Jia Guorong)**
8. **The southern European atmosphere found in Macao (by Jia Guorong)**
9. **Lion Dance performed in front of the City Hall (by Huang Yanhong)**
10. **The procession of the Lord of Passion parade (by Huang Yanhong)**

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The Governor Distributes Red Envelopes

The second day of the lunar new year is the day for the lion and dragon dances. The celebratory activities started near noon with the arrival of the Governor of Macao and his wife at Largo do Senado. The Governor mounted a temporary platform and painted the eyes of the performing lion mask, which is a typical Chinese practice that gives the finishing touch to an accomplishment.

About two hours later, after the dragon dances, the Governor and his wife left the square. Before he departed, he cupped his hands in the typical new year gesture and said, "Congratulations and wishing you prosperity!" in Chinese. He then began to distribute "red envelopes", another totally Chinese custom. Though only 10 cents was in each envelope, people rushed to get one, a souvenir from the last governor from Portugal.

It is difficult to imagine what happened when the two different cultures of the East and the West met in Macao at first. On the one hand, the Chinese in Macao closely followed their traditions out of love for their culture and customs, and respect for their ancestors. But they also made concessions and accepted certain aspects of the imported culture. Thus there are European-style buildings in old Chinese neighbourhoods and beef steak in Chinese restaurants. On the other hand, the Portuguese, faced with such a strong Chinese culture, adopted a flexible policy to absorb some of the local customs. Examples of this can be found in the New Year couplets pasted on church doors and the popping of firecrackers when a Portuguese shop opens for business. Even Portuguese food in Macao has been moulded to suit the Chinese taste.

The Heavenly Goddess and the Virgin Mary

The best part of the Macanese culture is found in the culturally hazy area. After more than 400 years of contact, the continental European culture of the later Renaissance period and the Chinese culture, the principal Eastern culture of the region, merged with, and absorbed from each other. Their integration can be found all over Macao — in the languages, customs and habits, architectural art and aspects of social life. A considerable number of Chinese have found God in the churches while the Chinese gods of happiness, wealth and longevity are enshrined in the homes of Portuguese. The Lou Lim Ioc Garden, built in the style of classic Suzhou gardens, has a Western touch in its corridors and columns. The Portuguese like Chinese-style furniture — even the Governor's Residence is furnished with Chinese hardwood chairs with finely carved decorations of dragons. Many traditional Chinese houses have European-style balconies and facilities, and a romantic continental European house may have a Chinese courtyard just inside the door.

1. A foreign palm-reader seems to be doing good business in Macao. (by Li Dan)
2. For the celebration of the Chinese New Year (by Huang Yanhong)
3. Some Chinese choose to get married in a church. (by Mao Jianjun)
4. The God of Wealth is widely welcomed. (by Huang Yanhong)
5. A tomb in the St. Michael Cemetery (by Huang Yanhong)
6. The Portuguese Governor has also adopted some Chinese customs — he is painting the dragon's eyes during the celebration of the Chinese New Year. (by Huang Yanhong)
7. The four sisters who all won the beauty contest of Macao in their restaurant with their parents (by Mao Jianjun)

Most fascinating are the two pictures inside a small chapel on Coloane Island. One is a picture of the Virgin Mary holding the baby Christ; the other depicts the Heavenly Goddess (Tin Hau) holding a Chinese baby with four Chinese characters, meaning "Heavenly Goddess, the Holy Mother". It is imaginable that when Catholicism was introduced to Macao and, in particular, to a small fishing village on Coloane, it was met with stubborn resistance. It must have been a clever missionary who eventually adopted a flexible measure by inviting the Chinese goddess into his church to stand side by side with the Virgin Mary. In this way, he persuaded the local villagers to accept the Virgin Mary as another "Heavenly Goddess", who, as the original one, could also protect them from disasters and sufferings.

There are less harmonious examples. The Ruins of St. Paul's, a famous sight in Macao, has Chinese cultural imprints all over it. The third and fourth friezes on the facade are carved with traditional Chinese lion designs. There is also the image of the Virgin Mary standing on a dragon, praying. A line of Chinese characters says: "Virgin Mary standing on dragon's head." This is odd because the dragon is a Chinese totem and standing on its head is somewhat

disrespectful. Perhaps it was the God of Fire's anger that caused three fires in this fine baroque church. After the last in 1835, all that remained was the building's facade, which still stands today as a landmark of Macao.

The Macanese, a Special Group

The St. Michael Cemetery is located between several buildings and lacks the quietness of a graveyard. Not surprisingly, it is again

where the East meets the West. Tombstones of various descriptions stand all over the graveyard. There are classic-style Chinese tombstones as well as holy, elegant Western ones. The traditional Chinese tombstones usually record the grave owner's official position and career in his lifetime. The romantic and neat Western crosses give people more space for imagination.

A stroll in the graveyard is like reading a history book; the tombstone is like the front cover with a brief biography and photograph. There are some double graves, home to a Portuguese husband and his Chinese wife, and triple graves, in which a man and his two wives are buried. Most there are Portuguese and Macanese, though some are Chinese.

Of the 10,000 Macanese, or local-born Portuguese with mixed blood, the majority have Chinese blood in their families. Some families have already lived there for four or five generations and have become 100 percent Macanese. They have enjoyed a higher social position than the Chinese, found better work, received higher pay and served as middle-level officials in the Macao government. Some of them speak fluent Cantonese and have Chinese names, many of which have the word *hua* (China) in them. The Portuguese, Macanese and Chinese form three distinct social circles and each has its own field of activities in Macao.

Four Beauties, One Family

At a restaurant on Taipa Island I tasted the Portuguese food, but it was the pretty women there who left the deeper impression on me. The restaurant is operated by four sisters of the Bi family. In an extraordinary feat, each of the four sisters won the title of Miss Macao in successive beauty contests — a miracle in the history of beauty contests. The restaurant displays photographs of these well-educated and exceptionally beautiful sisters on its main wall and the crowns they won in glass cases. It may be their mixed blood that has made them so clever and good-looking. Their maternal Portuguese grandfather and Chinese grandmother had started the family's three generations in Macao.

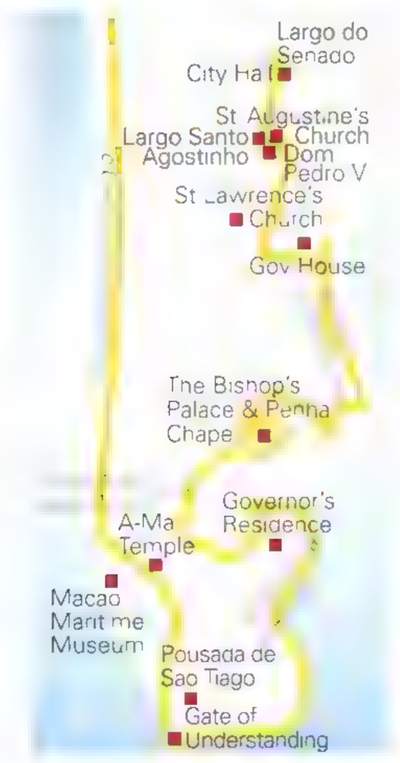
Touring Macao on Foot — the Six Best Walking Tours

Macao is a small city of kaleidoscopic attractions. The best way to see it is to go on walking tours. As you stroll from street to street, you will be able to see every aspect of this ancient city's 400 years of history.

ROUTE 1 — Where Chinese and Portuguese Cultures Mingle

City Hall — Government House — Penha Hill — A-Ma Temple (90 minutes)

Start from Largo do Senado (City Hall Square) and walk down Rua Dr. Soares to Calcada Tronco Velho, where St. Augustine's Church (built by Brother Augustine in 1586) stands. On your right is the headquarters of the Casa Ricci Charity and on your left, Dom Pedro V, the oldest European-style theatre in China. From there, go right along Rua Central and marvel at the St. Lawrence's Church with its wooden roof and ancient altar. Cross the street and walk down Travessa do Padre Narciso to reach Rua da Praia Grande to view the Government House built in 1849, and then reach Hotel Bela Vista, a 100-year-old hotel that has been converted into the official residence of the Portuguese consulate-general in Macao. Walk further on the avenue and turn right on Calcada do Bom Parto to reach Rua Boa Vista, then, on your left on the Calcada da Penha, you will find the Bishop's Residence and Chapel of Our Lady of Penha.



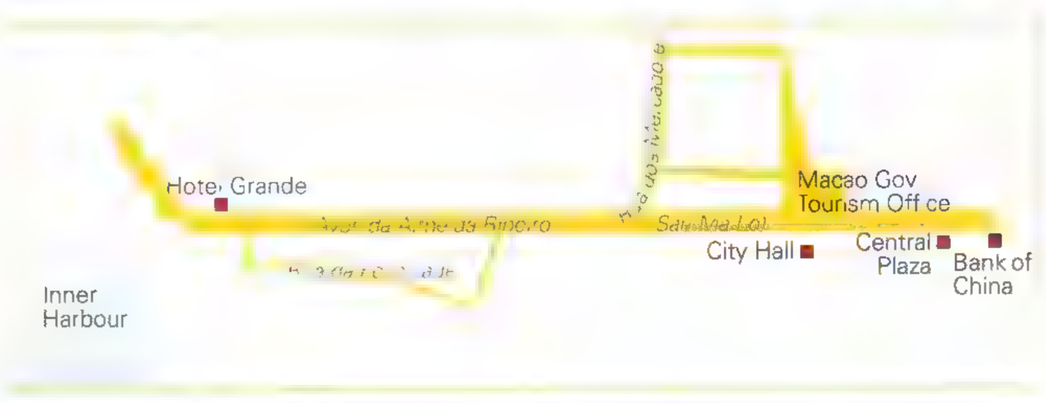
Follow Estrada de D. Joao Paulino and pass the Governor's Residence, to Rua da Praia do Bom Parto and Avenida da Republica. Along to the right you will reach the Gate of Understanding, a monument for generations of Chinese-Portuguese friendship standing on reclaimed land. At the turn is the Pousada de Sao Tiago, a 17th-century fortress that was transformed into a hotel. Walk on along Rua do Sao Tiago da Barra and pass the A-Ma Temple to Pier No.1, the spot where the Portuguese first landed in Macao. The Macao Maritime Museum is located here.

ROUTE 2 — Through the Heart of the City

Bank of China Building — Central Plaza — Leal Senado — Inner Harbour (40 minutes)

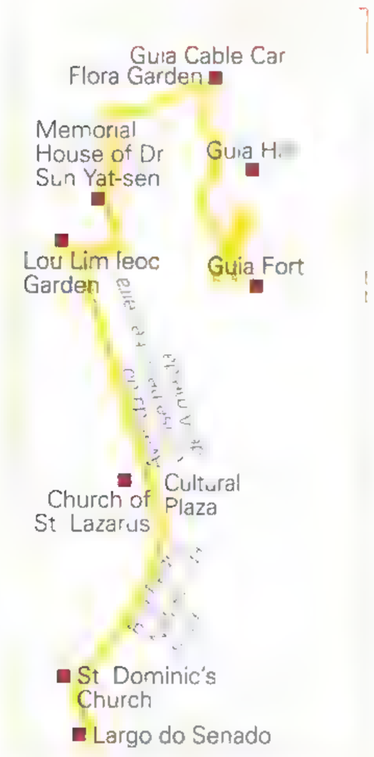
Avenida Almeida Ribeiro (San Ma Lo, or New Street) runs nearly two kilometres from Avenida da Praia Grande to the Inner Harbour, reflecting every aspect of life in Macao. At its starting point is the Bank of China Building on the left and the Banco Nacional Ultramarino, or the National Overseas Bank of Portugal founded in Macao in 1902, on its right. Further along, on the left, is the modern Central Plaza housing several well-known fashion shops and the Nam Kwong Chinese Arts and Crafts. Next is the Leal Senado (City Hall). Its rear garden, old Portuguese-style library and art gallery are open to visitors. Opposite are the Central Post Office and Largo do Senado, the square in front of the City Hall where the ground is paved with wave-patterned Portuguese mosaics tiles. Cross the square and you see the Santa Casa da Misericordia, the oldest European charity on the Asian mainland, built in 1568, and the Macao Government Tourist Office.

St. Dominic's Church at the end of the square was built by Dominican friars in 1590 and contains a sacred art museum. You may want to take a rest in a cafe on Rua da Sao Domingos and try the Portuguese pastries. In the lanes off the main street on the right are clothing stores and old pawn shops, many with fine relief carvings on the facades. Turn right to Rua da Felicidade, the former red light district, that now has innumerable shops. Follow the main street to reach the Inner Harbour.



ROUTE 3 Memories of the Past

Guia Hill — Dr. Sun Memorial House — Lou Lim Ieoc Garden — St. Lazarus Church (60 minutes)



At the top of Guia Hill you find the Guia Fort, the lighthouse constructed in 1865, and the chapel of Our Lady Guia. Walk down the hill along Estrada do Engenheiro Trigo to the station of the Guia Cable Car, which runs between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. for an 80-second ride down to arrive at the Flora Garden. On the grounds of a mansion destroyed in 1928 by the explosion of a firecracker factory, there is a small zoo. Across Avenida de Sidonio Pais, on the road on your left, you see the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial House. On display inside this Moorish building of the 1930s are paintings, books and related documents in memory of the founding father of modern China. Further along on Estrada Adolfo Loureino is Lou Lim Ieoc Garden, a classic Suzhou-style garden built in late 19th century by a Chinese businessman. Follow Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, you will see a row of restored buildings of the 1920s, which house Archives and the Department of Education and Public Health, and a bookstore called Cultural Plaza. To see more buildings of that period, turn right to Calcada de Sao Lazaro, where there are a number of pastel-coloured buildings painted in the style popular early in this century. One of them, a creamy yellow building, is the Central Library. The original St. Lazarus Church was burned down; this one was reconstructed. Back on the avenue you find many fashion shops. Then you reach Rua do Campo, which branches right to Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva. The imposing building on the right, originally a hospital, is now the office of the Macao Monetary Authority.

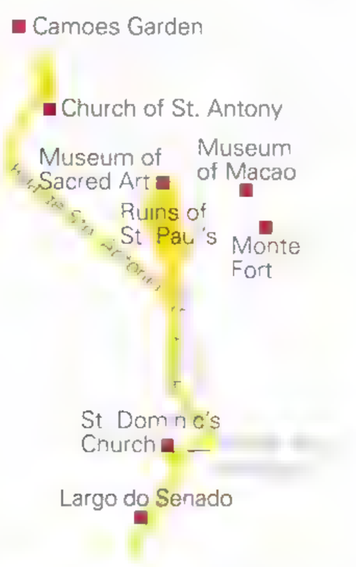
4

1. Our Lady of Penha Chapel (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. St. Dominic's Church is one of Macao's oldest. (by Li Zhixiong)
3. Lou Lim Ieoc Garden of Suzhou style (by Chan Yat Nin)
4. The Lighthouse on Guia Hill (by Liu Yang)
5. Posing at the Ruins of St. Paul's (by Mao Jianjun)
6. Monte Fort was built 300 years ago. (by Xiao Hong)

ROUTE 4 Historical and Cultural Heritages

Ruins of St. Paul's Church — Museum of Macao — Rua do St. Antonio — Camoes Garden (75 minutes)

From Largo do Senado you can see the ancient wall of Monte Fort behind St. Dominic's Church. Turn into Rua da Palha from Rua de Sao Dominigos, then walk along Rua de Sao Paulo, which is lined with antique and furniture shops, to the stone steps leading up to the ruins of St. Paul's Church built by the Jesuits in 1602 and burned down in 1835. At the back of the ruins are the restored crypt for Christian martyrs and the museum of sacred art. The Museum of Macao, devoted to the history of Macao and Sino-Portuguese relations, also stands on Monte Fort next to the ruins. Nearby Rua do St. Antonio is a street of shops selling antiques and reproductions. At its other end is the Church of St. Antony and the Old Protestant Cemetery across the square, where merchants, seamen and 19th-century residents, including the famous painter George Chinnery, are buried. Next to the cemetery is the office of the Orient Foundation, once the residence of the British East India Company's president. Further on is the well-known Camoes Garden, named after the most distinguished Portuguese poet Luis de Camoes.



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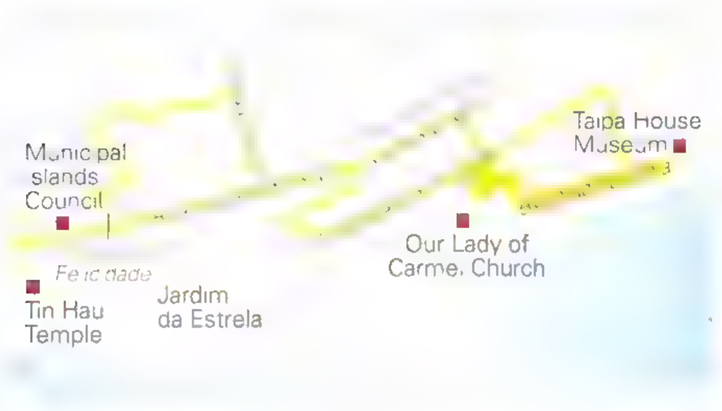
ROUTE 5 — A Journey from the Present to the Past

Taipa Island

Take a bus and get off at the Taipa Village stop, where a small Tin Hau Temple stands in the square. Opposite is the Islands Municipal Council. Walk around to see the narrow village lanes lined with many two-storey traditional Chinese buildings popular along the coast that combine business and living. Most of them have ground-floor shops, restaurants or small family stores. Follow Rua Correia da Silva to reach Rua da Cunha, also known as Food Street, where you can find restaurants of various cooking styles, including Chinese, Portuguese, Macanese, India, Italian and African. Cross Rua Correia da Silva and follow the narrow, sloping cobbled street of Calcada do Quartel, named for its old hill-top military fort, which is now a police station. Take Avenida Carlos da Maia, past the post office and school to Our Lady of Carmel Church, which has a garden in front with



a fountain and vine-covered bowers providing shade. Follow a winding path through the garden to reach the bay previously used as the anchorage of Chinese and Indian trading ships. Many of the houses along the Avenida da Praia, built in the 1920s, have been restored, including one which is now the Taipa House Museum.

Return along Calcada do Carmo to Avenida Direita Carlos Eugenio, where you can see a closed firecracker factory, a sign of a past flourishing business in Macao.

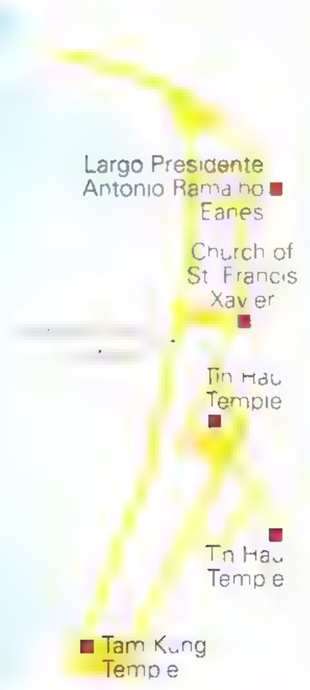
ROUTE 6 — A Time of Leisure

Coloane Island

A bus going to Coloane or Hac Sa takes you to the square of Largo Presidente Antoio Ramalho Eanes on the island, named after a former president who served in the army in Macao. Walk past the Alem Mar Restaurant and head for Rua das Galvotas, where you can taste the award-winning casserole in a Portuguese-Macanese restaurant.

Follow Rua dos Navegantes, you will see many shops selling salted fish that is said to be the best in the area. From the temple go down to Avenida 5 de Outubro on the waterfront, where you can see the Hengqin Island of the Zhuhai Special Economic Zone in China. Strolling along the tree-shaded seaside road you pass the square in front of the Chapel of St. Francis Xavier, the Portuguese-style Public Library building, some private residences and a primary school. Next is a small Tin Hau Temple and standing at the end of this road is the Tam Kung Temple, where Taoist gods are worshipped. Follow the road of Rua do Estaleiro and its row of banyan trees you find the major Tin Hau Temple. At its imposing entrance, a 100-year-old fire engine is displayed.

Cross Rua do Estaleiro to Travessa do Pagode and a right turn takes you to Rua dos Negociantes, a street typical of Chinese coastal cities. The small square further ahead, paved with Portuguese mosaics, is dominated by the Chapel of St. Francis Xavier. Opposite is a monument, an obelisk surrounded by cannons and shells, honouring the victory against pirates in 1910. Continue along this street to the Asian antique shops and perhaps buy a box of the delicious egg tarts at Lord Stow's Bakery.



1. **Many old buildings of southern European architectural style remain on Taipa. (by Chan Yat Nin)**
2. **Avenida 5 de Outubro was so named to commemorate the overthrow of Portugal's imperial rule on October 5, 1910. (by Li Dan)**
3. **The Chapel of St. Francis Xavier on Coloane (by Xiao Hong)**

Selected Museums in Macao

Despite its small size, Macao teems with quite a number of museums featuring a wide range of topics. The following are some of the highlights:

MUSEUM OF MACAO

Unlike other museums which focus on special aspects of the area, the Museum of Macao seeks to embody the life of the place and its people from the first settlement to the present day, including Sino-Western cultural interchange, administration and fortifications, commercial activities and urban development, to name a few. The most popular exhibits on the three floors are those recalling traditional ways of life, such as a mock-up of an old firecracker factory, videos of cricket fighting and a Chinese opera performer putting on make-up, life-size figures of hawkers with a soundtrack of their distinctive cries, a traditional Chinese wedding scene, and a typical room in an old Macanese house with period furnishings, ornaments and a classic Macanese feast.

Address: On the Monte Fort
Opening hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. from Tuesday to Sunday
Admission: 15 patacas for adults

MACAO MARITIME MUSEUM

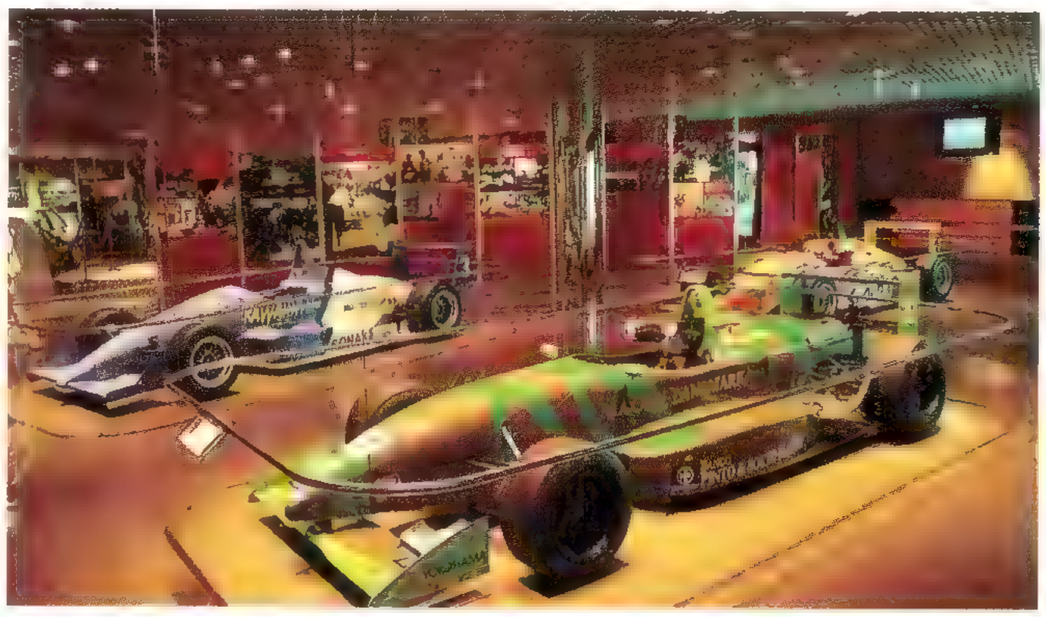
The museum concentrates on Portuguese and Chinese maritime links, both past and present. It exhibits the East Asian seafaring traditions, historic accounts of various explorers, pictures, equipment and models of boats. Serving also as a centre of maritime studies, it houses a small workshop. Displays include a real, specially-converted fishing junk moored at Pier No. 1 that conducts regular half-hour tours around the inner harbour and Praia Grande Bay. Pre-recorded tapes in English, Chinese and Portuguese give details of the customs and life of local fishermen. As well, visitors can travel in a two-seater simulator to experience the ocean's depths like a diver.

Address: Opposite A-Ma Temple
Opening hours: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily except Tuesday
Admission: 10 patacas for adult (5 patacas on Sunday)

MACAO GRAND PRIX MUSEUM

The museum was founded by the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO) to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Macao Grand Prix. The major exhibits, a valuable collection of vehicles which competed in and won the Guia Circuit, are either privately donated or acquired by MGTO, or are on loan from their owners. Photographs, literature, trophies and other pieces of memorabilia related to the Grand Prix can also be seen. Besides, two simulators are available for those who would like to experience the breath-taking Formula 3 car and motorcycle races. The museum is also equipped with a video library and films of past races.

Address: Rua de Luis Gonzaga Gomes
Opening hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily
Admission: 10 patacas for adult; 20 patacas for each simulator ride



MACAO WINE MUSEUM

Here, visitors can have a close encounter with the history of wine and vineyards, the world of viniculture utensils and the wine production, as well as a complete exhibition of vintage and new wines. The 1,400-square-metre museum displays an allotment of over 1,050 wine brands, of which 300 are rare collection wines, the oldest being a 1815 Madeira Wine. The most enjoyable part, of course, is that visitors are invited to sample one of the 50 new wines of Portugal.

Address: Rua de Luis Gonzaga Gomes
Opening hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily
Admission: 15 patacas for adult, including wine tasting

Drunken Dragon Dance

Article by Suolang Zhaxi

1

The dragon dance is popularly performed at festivals and celebrations in China. There are "human, fire" and "straw dragons", and even stool dragons. But few people have heard of the "drunken dragon". A trip to Macao opened my eyes.

It was with touch of pride that my friends in Macao talked about the drunken dragon, because it is now the only one of its kind in the whole of China. In Macao, the drunken dragon appears on the streets, in newspapers and magazines, and on postage stamps.

The dance of the drunken dragon is said to have originated in Zhongshan, Guangdong Province. Old annals mention eight kinds of dragons, including wooden, fiery and golden dragons. The wooden dragon was the predecessor of the drunken dragon. Several sections of wooden dragons, which resemble Macao's drunken dragon, have been found in Zhongshan's Shaxi Township in recent years. Though the original was not drunk, it was somehow transformed in Macao.

The drunken dragon dance, which came from Shaxi to Shiqi in Guangdong, was learned by Macao's fishermen over 60 years ago. Knowledge of this dance became lost in Shiqi and it had to be brought back from Macao to its own hometown.

On my arrival on Taipa Island a considerable crowd was waiting in the street garden at Rua Fernao Mendes Pinto. The dragon is in two separate pieces: the head and tail. The dance was performed by a team of four burly men, with two holding the head and the other two twisting the tail. Holding the heavy head was quite hard work, but they swung it left and right and, taking advantage of the momentum, raised it overhead, supporting and steadying it at the same time. The tail, much lighter, was held at chest level and swung left and right in large semi-circles in rhythm with the movement of the head.

2

Before the dance began, the dragon dancers posed for photographs, but quickly people came forward with bottles of beer and forced them to drink. The dance would not really begin before the dragon dancers had become half-intoxicated.

1. **The dragon has become utterly drunk near the end of the performance.**
2. **The performers drink continually as the parade moves forward.**
3. **The drunken dragon has a head and tail but no middle section.**
4. **The drunken dragon gives a special performance at the Third Aunt's Temple in which the third sister of the Heavenly Queen is enshrined.**

The procession paraded forward along towards Garden Cidade das Flores. As dancing with the dragon head was very exhausting, it was done by two teams in turn. The resting team kept offering beer to the team carrying the dragon. They soon became tipsy and so was the dragon. Some local people said that it was not a true drunken dragon performance until the team was 80 percent drunk. The dragon became increasingly drunk and swung around in a jerky gait.

The dragon kept drinking. After the beer came big bottles of strong liquor. At that point, the spectators had to be careful because the dragon would occasionally spit the liquor out. Whether it was that the dragon's capacity was limited or it wanted to show it was not drinking water, the liquor spat out drenched spectators' faces, heads and cameras.

At times the dragon awoke from its drunkenness, as it paused by a temple to perform a dance in the company of lions in the northern and southern styles. At the end of this dance, the dragons struck another striking pose. The parade procession was accompanied by drums and gongs, in an unusual rhythm, but always in step with the dance. A Western brass band followed them.

At the end the dragon had become thoroughly drunk. The dancers continued on in a truly drunken dragon dance.

Macao

Gambling Three Different Ways

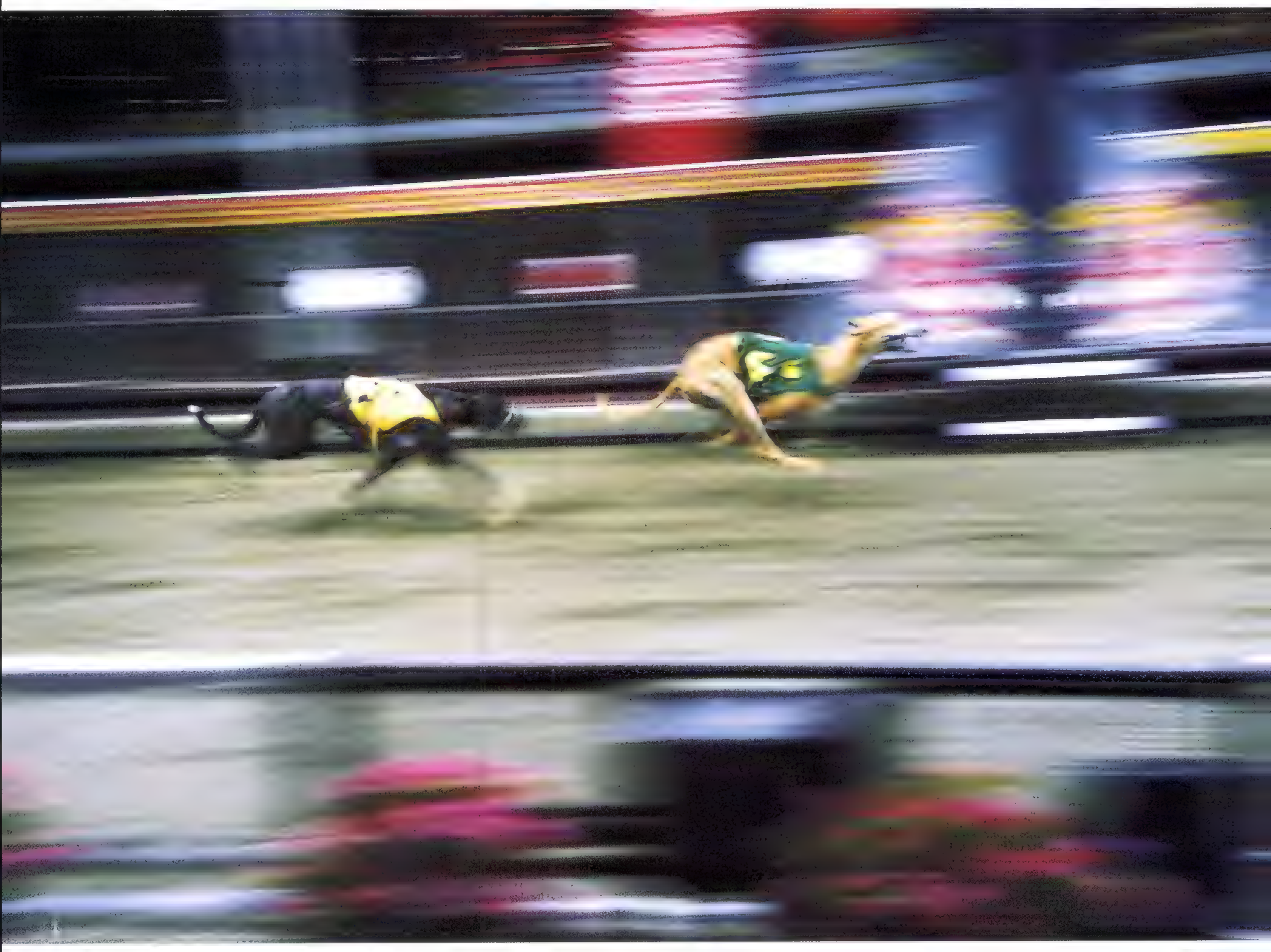
Article by Suolang Zhaxi

Gambling is the principal source of revenue for the city of Macao. There are three forms of gambling here: gambling games; betting on horse and greyhound races; and lotteries. Betting on horse and greyhound races can be made both on and off the course. But one has to be inside a casino to play gambling games, which are the most popular form of gambling in Macao for tourists.

Greyhound Racing

Greyhound racing has a history of 67 years in Macao. The canidrome at the foot of Lin Fong Hill closed in 1935. It was later used as a sports stadium, amusement park, acrobatic theatre and even an open-air dance floor. But business never recovered until September 1963 when it was renovated and re-opened as the Macao Canidrome Club for greyhound racing. After adding computer-recorded winnings and photo-finishes, the canidrome again became an exciting amusement in Macao.

Racing is held at the canidrome in the evenings of Monday,



Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. There are about a dozen races each evening, starting from 8 p.m. and lasting till after midnight. The canidrome stands can accommodate several thousand spectators, who can make a wide choice of wagers, including win or place, quinellas and trifectas, at two or five dollars a ticket.

The more serious greyhound fans crowd around a small track next to the race course to see the greyhounds directly when the trainers parade the dogs in a circle around the race course. The dogs then undergo a pre-race check-up before heading into the starting box.

At the bell, a mechanical rabbit dashes out on the inside track close to the starting box. Almost simultaneously, the gate of the starting box opens and seven or eight greyhounds rush out to chase the mechanical rabbit. These experienced greyhounds all head for the shorter inside track as soon as they are out.

The greyhounds are intelligent animals with sharp eyesight, long legs, and sleek and muscular bodies. They are also expensive animals, worth over HK$10,000. They run at the surprisingly fast speed of 16 metres per second, far faster than the human record in 100-metre dashes. The speed of the mechanical rabbit they are trained to chase has to be just right. If it moves too fast, the greyhounds will lose interest; too slow and they will catch up.

Watching the races, I intended to take a photograph but before I could find them in the camera's viewfinder, they had already flown past. At the end of one race, there was a big stir in the spectators' stands. While some moaned for their losses, others shouted with glee for their victory. A young lady from a Japanese tour group was the winner of a sweepstake. Though her winnings were not large, she became the star of the tour group and was warmly congratulated.

At the end of each race the greyhounds were angry because they could not catch the mechanical rabbit, and continued to dash forward. The attendants had to stop them with two large nets and wait for the trainers to come and take them off the race course.

1. A greyhound can run as fast as 16 metres per second. (by Yan Hong)
2. Spectators on the stands (by Liu Yang)
3. The greyhounds getting ready for the race (by Liu Yang)
4. Fans betting in between the races (by Yan Hong)
5. Spectators often arrive early. (by Yan Hong)

The most representative of the eight casinos in Macao is the Casino Lisboa, which is connected with Hotel Lisboa. Some say the building resembles a huge bird cage which catches birds (bettors) but does not trap them. The ceiling of this round two-storey building is shaped like a metallic roulette wheel. The casino is open 24 hours a day and 365 days a year to everybody. Written on a notice board at the door are these mild words: "There are no certain wins in gambling; light stakes cheer the heart. Play only with your spare money; make the games an entertainment."

Just inside the entrance is a circle of slot machines that accept Hong Kong or Macao dollars. Tourists unfamiliar with gambling often amuse themselves at these machines first. The slot machines are a game of probability. Some players will watch the machines for a while before playing. They avoid those machines that have just yielded a lot of coins and play on those not dispensing a win for a long time. But actually the slot machines are connected, and the winning and losing are averaged as a whole. Never look down on the appetite of these slot machines as they can gobble up several thousand dollars in one evening.

On the outer circle of the slot machines are some VIP rooms. There is a mysterious air in these rooms, and those inside are like the big, rich gamblers in the movies. The other VIP rooms upstairs, with their invited guests playing for high stakes, are more secretive and closed off to outsiders. In baccarat, for example, the maximum payout on any one game is US$100,000, which is three times higher than the tables in the gaming hall.

The central hall is the most noisy place. Each of the dozen or so tables are crowded with people. There are, of course, more spectators than players watching games such as blackjack, baccarat, "big and small" and keno.

The playing cards are specially made with double layers to prevent players seeing through them. Each dealer is a professional with no facial expressions. As he deals, he throws away some blanks ones to disrupt the professional gamblers.

The game of "big and small", a Chinese game, is a simple and interesting one. After the players have placed their stakes on the table, betting on the values of the thrown dice, the croupier "throws" the dice inside a covered canister. Wins and losses are decided at once.

Players leave the casino with different expressions on their faces — some downfallen, some grinning. There are plenty of myths about becoming a millionaire overnight, which are what makes sure there are certainly more losers than winners.

1. The logo of an old pawnshop (by Xiao Hong)
2. The casino hall in the New Century Hotel (courtesy of New Century Hotel)
3. Tourists are easily attracted to the slot machines. (by Mao Jianjun)
4. A "family" picture of the winning horse, which includes the horse, its owner, trainer, and the jockey (by Yan Hong)
5. Bettors observe the horses carefully before the race begins. (by Yan Hong)
6. Horseracing goes on all summer in Macao. (by Mao Jianjun)

Horse racing in Macao started 140 years ago. In the early years after Hong Kong had become a trading port, its annual horse racing was held in Macao with horses shipped over from Hong Kong.

Horse racing in the early days in Macao was not as sophisticated as now. There was a pen for each horse and bettors had to queue at the pen of the horse on which they intended to place their bets. Today it is all done by computers and the

bets have also become larger. The Macao Racecourse was built on reclaimed land on Taipa Island in 1977. Its five-tier stands have a capacity of 15,000 spectators.

In the hot summer while horses in Hong Kong are taking a break, Macao goes on with its racing. Unlike the casinos, most of the bettors on horse races are local or Hong Kong people, who arrive early on every racing day. The large parking lot is often crowded with cars. Those who are already on the grounds listen to special radio broadcasts or read special editions of newspapers, which give detailed information on the records of the horses, the ways they are trained and the jockeys. When the participating horses are paraded before the race, people rush over to have a look.

In Macao, there are bets for place or win, sweepstake, exacta, pari-mutual and trifecta, and the smallest bet is 10 dollars. To many people, this is a kind of amusement. A few bets on a horse racing day can give you a half day's hope of winning a small fortune.

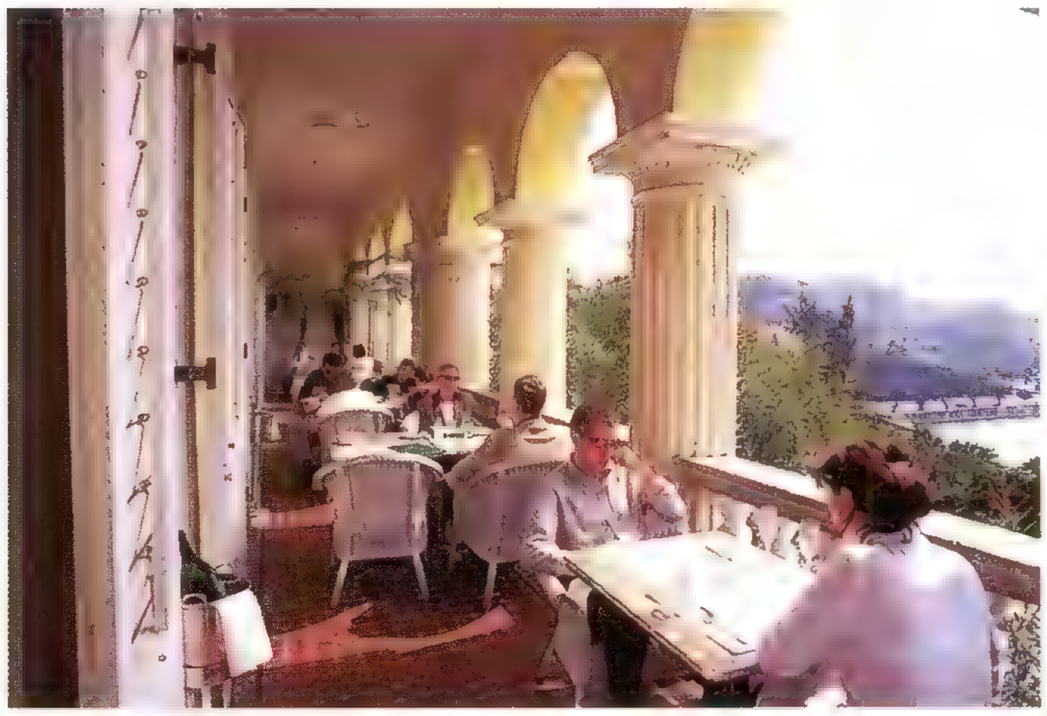
An elderly gentleman there always bets on the dark horse and places his bet at the last moment. He said that though few people win, those that do can win funds for a whole season of betting. It is a gamble and at the same time an amusement, because you do not have to spend much for a chance to win. His attitude may explain why horse racing is so popular in Macao.

Tourists who happen to be in Macao on a horse racing day may find it worthwhile entertainment and admittance to the common area is free. You can watch the jockeys competing with one another for the inside track and the beautiful galloping horses while the local racing fans pay strict attention to the numbers. You can also place a few bets — sometimes the less you know, the more likely you are to win.

Macao: A City of Many Historical Anecdotes

Article by Yan Hong and Li Zhixiong

After experiencing over 400 years of vicissitudes, Macao has become a city of many historical anecdotes. As you stroll down its quaint old alleys and brand new avenues, you will find many stories, important and trivial, recent and old, behind the buildings, sculptures, parks and scenic spots of all descriptions.



HOTEL BELA VISTA

The Oldest Hotel

Its South European architectural style and large balconies facing the sea combine with some unusual history to make the eight-room Hotel Bela Vista the most representative of classic hotels in Macao.

The hotel was opened in 1870 by its first proprietor, a British captain, who named it Boa Vista. In 1901 the French government intended to buy it and turn it into a place of rest for its Far East troops. Pressured by the British government, the government in Macao blocked the transaction and ordered a welfare organisation to buy the hotel.

Starting in 1917, during World War I, the hotel became a secondary school. In 1937, during World War II, it became a refugee camp for refugees from Portugal and then again a hotel in 1950. The Macao government, in 1979, declared the hotel a historical heritage and, after renovations, reopened it in 1992.

The hotel was closed in March 1999. After the return of Macao to China, this building is to become the official residence of the first Portuguese consul-general in Macao. Up until its last day, many people hurried there to enjoy their last cup of afternoon tea in the Bela Vista's unusual atmosphere.

1. Hotel Bela Vista will become the official residence of the Portuguese consul-general in Macao. (by Yan Hong)
2. The bronze statue of Guanyin with Western features (by Li Dan)
3. The Hac Sa (Black Sand) Beach (by Li Dan)

THE BRONZE GUANYIN

with a Foreign Face

2

The statue of Guanyin (Goddess of Mercy) standing on the reclaimed land at the Outer Harbour is the work of Portuguese sculptor, Cristina Rocha Leiria. While differing from the traditional Sinocised image of an elegant oriental woman, it has a touch of Portuguese romanticism. Friendly or ironically, this work that combines Chinese and Portuguese cultures is called by local people "The Foreign Guanyin".

The 20-metre statue, cast wholly in bronze, stands on the seven-metre-high lotus pedestal housing the Macao Buddhist Cultural Centre. The upper storey of the centre is an ecumenical centre for Chinese Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism while the lower level is a library.

HAC SA BEACH

Mysterious Colours

Among the few beaches in Macao, Hac Sa (Black Sand) Beach is a very unusual one.

This crescent-shaped beach in the southern part of Coloane Island extends for several hundred metres. From a distance, the colour of the sand turns from yellow to black as the beach slopes down to the sea. An on-the-spot study discovered that the dark grains are glauconite, a secondary mineral, which forms in the sea and washes ashore.

There are two other beaches on Coloane — Cheoc Van and Ka Ho. The latter used to be frequented by pirates.

3

BORDER GATE

Site of Opium War's First Shot

On August 15, 1839, the British merchants who violated the ban on opium trade were driven out of Macao by the Qing government commissioner Lin Zexu. In June 1840, Britain sent 48 warships with over 4,000 soldiers to the sea near Macao. On the pretence of rescuing a Briton named Stanton, an illegal immigrant in Macao who was under arrest, the British attacked the Chinese troops at the Border Gate on August 29. The Chinese garrison resisted, but after a fierce hour-long battle, the gate was occupied by 300 British soldiers. This battle preceded the Opium War.

KIANG VU HOSPITAL

Site of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's First Job

6

After graduating with honours from the Hong Kong School of Western Medicine in September 1892, Dr. Sun Yat-sen joined the Kiang Vu Hospital as a volunteer doctor of Western medicine and thus became the first Chinese to practise Western medicine in Macao.

At this hospital, Dr. Sun had removed patients' tumours and earned the esteem of the local people. Announcements expressing gratitude from his cured patients which called him "a doctor of wonderful skills" were printed in local newspapers. His talent aroused the jealousy of his Portuguese colleagues, who tried to sideline him and forbade the dispensary to fill his prescriptions, on the excuse that he lacked a Portuguese diploma. Finally, Dr. Sun left Macao and his medical practice, and embarked on the path of a professional revolutionary.

OCTAGONAL LIBRARY

50 Years of Free Reading

This octagonal pavilion on a busy Macao street in Nam Van district is an eye catcher. It houses a privately run public library where everybody can go in to sit and read its newspapers, books and magazines. There are more than 20,000 books on the upper floor and nearly 100 varieties of current newspapers and magazines on the ground floor.

The structure was built in 1926 with funds pooled by a Macanese. The abandoned octagonal pavilion was bought in 1948 by Ho Yin, president of the local Chinese Chamber of Commerce, who made it into a public reading place. This classic building has also become a tourist attraction.

5

THE POCKET CHAPEL

Locale of Many Weddings

The castle-style hotel, Pousada de Sao Tiago, built over 350 years ago, was originally a fort equipped with 26 cannons.

There is an exquisite small chapel in the hotel large enough to hold only five or six people. A small door in the chapel leads directly to the hotel lobby. The St. Jacob Chapel, though small, is quite well known in Macao and neighbouring regions. Many couples like to hold their wedding ceremony there. A priest in the chapel specialises in performing wedding ceremonies. The hotel also offers a whole package for newlyweds, which includes the honeymoon suite and a candle-light dinner with a bottle of Portuguese wine. They also get a memorial card signed by the general manager of the hotel as a souvenir. Sometimes, several weddings are performed in the small chapel in one day.

4. The Border Gate, built in 1847 (by Yan Hong)
5. The Octagonal Pavilion, a free library (by Yan Hong)
6. The bronze statue of Dr. Sun Yat-sen standing at the Kiang Vu Hospital (by Xiao Hong)
7. The small chapel in Pousada de Sao Tiago (by Li Zhixiong)

Woods on the Yellow River in Winter

Photos by Zheng Yunfeng
Article by Li Wu

After passing through Hukou (Pot Mouth) and Longmen (Dragon Gate), the Yellow River runs out of the deep valley and its turbulent currents calm down to form a vast and tranquil water surface. The river becomes even wider and quieter when it reaches the area between Yongji in Shanxi Province and Dali in Shaanxi. In early winter, a thin layer of ice — which is actually something between ice and water, with fine transparent ripples — spreads on the river surface, adding a subtle sense to its natural beauty. The morning sun rays, reflected but at the same time blurred by the river, turn the landscape into a dreamland picture. The willow trees growing in the shallow waters by the shores — their leaves having all fallen but their thick branches standing upright — appear particularly attractive. In a way, these grayish, naked trees, on the backdrop of the icy river, look even more dramatic than they do in spring and summer.

A successful landscape photo definitely needs both a good backdrop and the ideal rays to shine on it. This is best demonstrated in this group of pictures, through which we see that no matter how beautiful the mountains, waters, trees and flowers are, their beauty will not be fully expressed unless they are bathed in the right light.

Photography References: Camera135 with zooms of F28-80 and F80-200; and Kodak slides 64. Test the light using the icy surface; put the aperture half or one grade higher, without added filter. Choose a high vantage position on the river banks.

FOOD DELIGHTS

Red hot peppers top all dishes no matter whether they are chicken, duck, fish, pork or vegetables.

STEWED FOOD IN TAOYUAN

Photos & Article by Xiao Gang

The county town of Taoyuan, known as the Land of Peach Blossoms, lies on the bank of the Yuanjiang River in northern Hunan Province. It has been prosperous as a commercial centre since ancient times. Known as a land of fish and rice and source of many products, commerce and culture are also well developed here. With the folklore stories of the contemporary writer Shen Congwen in hand, visitors constantly wander around, trying to verify his descriptions of this lovely place.

The Taoyuan people have been gourmets since ancient times and the area naturally has plenty of delicacies. The night fair is dominated by busy snack counters and stalls selling all varieties of food. Colourful sheds and awnings stand one after the other, and wafts of sweet aromas drift along the brightly-illuminated streets, luring both local residents and visitors. The busiest ones, marked by big lanterns, are Kuan Er and Xiang Er. It is a lively scene inside them, where customers pack dozens of tables while cooks are busy along a row of stoves blazing with flames. The most eye-catching dishes are the various kinds of stewed food in pottery hotpots on the large tables. In the pots are chicken, duck, fish, pork, bean curd, noodles and delicacies from the sea. Without exception, they are topped with a thick layer of red hot peppers. Ingredients ready, I sat down and was soon served a pot of chicken and fish each. As they were stewing, the sweet aroma immediately jumped up to greet me, whetting my appetite. The famous Taoyuan chickens are very big; the average size is four or five kilograms and large ones can reach seven or eight kilograms. The chicken leg in my pot was indeed delicious. Perhaps, this is because they are free-range chickens. The carp was from the Yuanjiang River, caught by trained cormorants. It did not taste at all like the raised fish that flood the markets nowadays. Even the condiments like onion, ginger and garlic had better flavour.

Five pots of stewed dishes are enough for 10 strong young men to eat their fill.

Taoyuan is a town offering enjoyable scenes all day long. In the early morning in Taoyuan, you can see the cormorants perched on the fishing boats at Yanxikou, their dark bodies reflected in the water. The Tongfang Ferry is an ideal place to watch the sunrise and also watch boats shuttle to and fro, carrying farmers to the early market. Their bamboo baskets fully loaded with fresh vegetables and

Kuan Er is the busiest stall selling stewed food in specially prepared pots. You simply boil the contents of your own pot, or take it to cook at home.

Tips for the Traveller

Beware that stewed dishes are large in size. A dish of vegetables, such as Chinese cabbage with bean starch noodles and lotus root costs 10 yuan; meat dishes (fish, chicken, duck, pork or mutton) cost 15 to 30 yuan each. Customers who cannot tolerate spicy food can request a milder version.

fruits, these farmers resemble a long colourful streamer flowing into town. In the daytime you can board a fishing boat to see how fishermen catch fish with their cormorants. At dusk, from the Wenchang Pavilion you can watch the beautiful scene of fishing boats moving back and forth on the distant river before the setting sun sinks down over the upper reaches of the Yuanjiang River.

Fishing on the Yuanjiang River using cormorants

Food Street in Yangzhou

Article by Bao Ding

In the city centre of Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province, there is a food street, where lights glimmer and sweet smells waft far and wide every night. Over 180 stalls sell all kinds of typical Yangzhou snacks. The old-style gas lights used by the stalls conjure up a strong nostalgic feeling.

Huaiyang snacks include at least 500 different kinds, such as noodles, dumplings, steamed buns, rice porridge, cakes, bean products and stewed meat. Most famous are the "Three Wonders" of Yangzhou snacks. The delicious Steamed Bun of Five Ingredients (sea cucumber, chicken, pork, bamboo shoots, and shrimp) is served in the Fuchun Tea House. The Qing-dynasty emperor Qianlong profusely praised it during his inspection tour to Yangzhou. The Thousand-Layer Cake, 64 layers in all, with sugar and oil in between, is semi-transparent, and very crisp and tasty. The Jadeite Steamed Dumpling, made of a thin wrapper stuffed with green vegetables and chopped ham on top, tempts everyone as its aroma sweetly assails the nostrils.

World Food Festival in Yangzhou

Yangzhou is the birthplace of Huaiyang cuisine, one of the four major Chinese cooking schools. In late September each year, a festival of food and cultural exchange is held there. Master local cooks offer various tasty dishes and traditional banquets such as Honglou, Qionghua and Imperial Qianlong. Famous overseas cooks and gourmets from such countries as the United States, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Australia and Myanmar also come to exchange experiences.

Visitors can not only enjoy the true Huaiyang dishes and various other flavours of food, but also have the chance to learn the Huaiyang cooking. Besides, a painted dragon boat offers tours along the waterway that Emperor Qianlong once took.

The Imperial Qianlong Banquet (by Yat Nin)

The Mystery of Qaidam Basin

Photos by Jiang Weizhou Article by Bai Yu

When the land of Qinghai Province is mentioned, many would be reminded of its Qinghai Lake and Bird Island on the Qinghai Plateau, the Riyue (Sun and Moon) Mountain, and Caka Salt Lake – the most popular tourist destinations in the province. It is true that few people have ever thought about going further to the west to see the Qaidam Basin, which, in most people's minds, is simply a desert wilderness without life.

In fact, Qaidam is not a barren wilderness at all. About six years ago, a team of writers, photographers and geologists made a three-month survey around the Qaidam Basin. Last year correspondents of this magazine also visited the southern part of the basin and the area along the Qinghai-Tibet Highway.

Forests were discovered in tall mountains, oases were seen on the desert, and many wonders and mysteries popped up. For example, were the metal pipes laid in the mountain rocks pre-historical objects or made by space visitors? How were these things – the two-kilometre-long ridge piled up with shells in the desert and the 100-year-old reed rafts in the swamp – formed?

Besides these mysteries, there are other things to admire: the "Great Wall" of the mountains and the 1,000-year-old cypress forests.

Tourist Map of Qaidam Basin
柴達木旅遊示意圖

祁 連 山
Qilian Mountains

柏樹山
Cypress Hill

德令哈
Delingha

托素湖
Toson Lake

白公山
Baigong Mountain

星人遺物
Mysterious objects

夏日哈石經
Xiariha Stone Scriptures

天峻山
Tianjun Mountain

天峻
Tianjun

烏蘭
Ulan

扎西郡乃
Zhaxijunnai

魯茫溝巖畫
Lumang Gully Cliff Carvings

剛察
Gangca

剛察站
Gangca Station

天峻站
Tianjun Station

青海湖
Qinghai Lake

海晏
Haiyan

湟源
Huangyuan

西寧市
Xining

日月山
Riyue Mountain

湟中
Huangzhong

茶卡鹽湖
Caka Salt Lake

都蘭
Dulan

將軍墓
General's Tomb

柴達木河
River

熱水墓群
Reshui Tombs

柏樹山
Cypress Hills

長城鄉
Changcheng Township

香日德
Xiangride

伊克高里
Yikegaoli

共和
Gonghe

塔爾寺
Tar Monastery

龍羊峽水電站
Longyangxia Hydroelectric Station

貴德
Guide

Tianjun: Mountains, Grassland and Stone Forest

To cover the 360 kilometres from the provincial capital of Xining to Tianjun, it takes six hours by train, or seven to eight hours by car. In Tianjun the most popular sight is the Stone Chamber of the Heavenly Queen Mother, which is about 30 kilometres from the county town. If you hire a jeep, you can get there and back for about 100 yuan.

The Stone Chamber sits at the foot of Mount Guanjiao. The mountain sounds familiar to many people because on their way to Golmud by train, they have to pass the Guanjiao tunnel which, at 4,100 metres, is the highest tunnel in the world.

1. The 320-metre-long wall, 2.5 metres high and 1.5 metres wide, is built with stone slabs carved with Buddhist scriptures.
2. July and August is the most beautiful season on the Tianjun Grassland. (by Ma Yuanhao)
3. The cliff carvings at Lumang Gully were left by the Qiang people 3,000 years ago.
4. Xiariha Stone Scripture Academy, surrounded by the scripture wall, is the venue for a grand Buddhist chanting ceremony held annually in April.
5. The Dropping Spring in the desert never dries up, even in a serious drought.
6. Tianjun is home to white-lip deer, an endangered species under first-class state protection.

Heavenly Queen Mother's Chamber

The Stone Chamber is a cave of 80-90 square metres. It is recorded in the geography section of the *History Book of the Han Dynasty* as having been found in the northwestern province of Jincheng, along with the Celestial Sea (Qinghai Lake, 70 kilometres east) and the Salt Pond (Caka Salt Lake, 60 kilometres southwest). It is also called Erlang Cave by the local people, as a nearby mountain with a flat top is said to be the site where the Monkey King fought Er Lang, a heavenly god, who cut the mountain top off with his sword. Despite its name, there is no trace of the Heavenly Queen Mother found in the cave, which seems too simple and small for the legendary empress in the Heaven. Rather, I would like to imagine that it was where a nomadic chieftain used to hide herself from the cold weather when she came to graze her herds in autumn and winter. Since the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), transient monks had been lodged there, thus turning the cave into a solemn place for Tibetan Buddhism.

Opposite the cave, about 80 metres away, is the Temple of the Heavenly Queen Mother. Though collapsed, the remains of its walls can still be traced. Han-dynasty bricks with clear rope impressions, tiles and other historical objects litter the area. On the ridge-tiles are carved words such as "Happy Forever" and "Endless Happiness".

Climbing Up Mount Tianjun

Mount Tianjun, at 4,125 metres above sea level and 15 kilometres from the county town, is the symbol of Tianjun County. We hired a taxi for 200 yuan to make a one-day tour to see Mount Tianjun, Camel Stone and Stone Forest. From the foot of Mount Tianjun we climbed up a narrow mountain path to the top, from where we had a panoramic view of the 10-square-kilometre Tianjun Pasture, which is deal for summer and autumn herds. Buha River flows through the pasture and empties into Qinghai Lake. The snowy peaks, glaciers and icy valleys on the Qilian Mountains standing on the northern horizon add significance to the beauty of the grassland. On holidays and festivals, townspeople like to come here to picnic and enjoy the picturesque landscape.

As we were taken with the charming scenes, thick clouds accumulated, and rain and hailstones dropped all of a sudden. Picnickers put the woks, pots and plates over their heads as shields amid pinging sounds. The sheep continued grazing and the herdsmen continued singing. Believing it is auspicious, the Tibetans accepted the short-lived hailstorm happily.

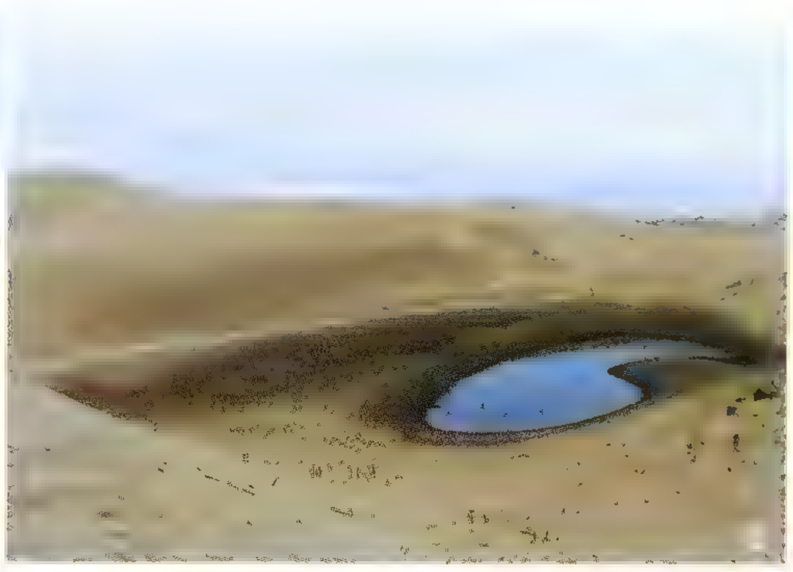
We came down and headed toward the Stone Forest. After about 10 kilometres, we saw a "camel" kneeling on the mountain slope — this is the famous Camel Stone.

Five kilometres further on was the Tianjun Stone Forest, which is barren on its sunny side and covered with verdant grass on the shaded side.

Zhaxijunnai: An Aid for Health

Zhaxijunnai in Zhouqun Township is 50 kilometres from the county town of Tianjun, and again we arranged a one-day trip by hiring a jeep for 200 yuan. After an hour's drive, we came to the glacier area, with steep valleys in the shape of a V or U and flat mountain tops. With marks of glaciers everywhere, the whole area seems to be a museum of glaciers.

After the glacier area, the big mountain, Zhaxijunnai, suddenly stood before us like a giant pagoda. Zhaxijunnai means "source of auspices" in Tibetan. At the mountain's east end was the revered Reproduction Cave, which consists of upper and lower caves, resembling the female genitals. In the past, when the local Tibetan herdspeople had trouble raising a child, they would send their baby to this cave and then take it out from the lower mouth of the cave, believing this ceremony could enable the child to grow healthily. At the northern side of the mountain there is a spring — the real source of auspices. Clear and sweet, its water is believed to have good medicinal effects for heart disease, stomach complaints and arteriosclerosis.



Delingha is the capital of Qinghai's Haixi Prefecture, which occupies almost one third of the province, including Tianjun, Golmud, Qaidam Basin and the northern side of the Kunlun Mountains. Our journey around Qaidam was all within Haixi's boundary.

Ancient Cypress Forest Park

The Cypress Hill, only 10 kilometres from the city centre, is accessible only by taxi. The area is special for several reasons. The beautiful and quiet environment of this desert forest is cool in summer, and so it is favoured during holidays and festivals for picnics. It has clear and sweet spring water that gushes from rock crevices and flows down in terraced waterfalls. The ancient cypresses grow on cliffs and in between rocks of strange shapes, some of which resemble old men, others gnarled dragons.

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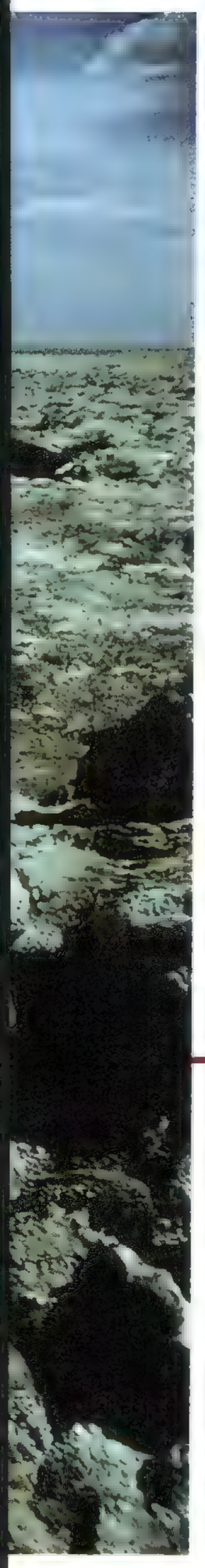


A Fish Pond on the Plateau

Hurleg Lake lies on the Hoit Taria Grassland. "Hurleg" means plentiful water and grass in Mongolian. It takes 30 minutes to drive over the 40 kilometres from Delingha and a return taxi trip costs 150 yuan, including a wait at Bird Island. The lake has a waterway connecting it to Toson Lake, so the two of them are referred to as the Sister Lakes.

Hurleg Lake covers an area of 5,733 hectares and is home to water birds and fish. By the shore are dense reeds and in the water are lake weeds of as many as 63 species. Carp, crucian carp, grass carp and blunt-snout bream are among its many species of fish. In 1973, the locals began cultivating fish for the first time on the plateau. The carp grow to about half a kilogram in a year. After that success, shrimps, crabs and Beijing ducks were also brought in. Though it has been turned into a fish pond, no feeding is needed. All the lake's living creatures thrive on the plentiful grasses and insects.

A Visit to the Paradise of Birds

After having a meal of fresh fish, we hired a motorboat to go across the lake, through the connecting waterway to the Toson Bird Island. There are few visitors to this 0.5-square-kilometre island. The birds there have no natural enemies, so they do not have the sense of "self-protection". The wild geese, ducks, ospreys, egrets and many others live together peacefully. As we passed a flock of birds, some flew up, wheeling overhead, and landed where they had perched; others were not startled at all and remained in their nests.

Strange Mountains and Odd Rocks

At the northeastern corner of Toson Lake rises a row of mountains, with cliffs on the lake side and flat land on the other, forming a strange landform of "single-sided mountains". Mount Baigong stands protruding forward to the lake, ahead of others.

Beside the lake at the mountain's foot are piles of rocks in geometric figures. One is a 1.5-metre rock in an odd shape, neither man nor animal, but with a head, body and tail. Certainly not an art work of nature as the result of erosion, it was very possibly carved by humans.

Delingha: Unexplained Mysteries

1. Qaidam is rich in saltpetre, which covers the vast land like snow. (by Wang Miao)
2. It remains a mystery whether these sculptures at Toson Lake are manmade or not.
3. Iron tubes are found implanted in the rocks lying by Toson Lake and in Baigong Mountain.
4. A group photo of the expedition team members taken at Baigong Mountain. At the upper left corner is a huge pipe.

Qaidam Basin: Rich Resources, Few People

Article by Bai Yu

Qaidam is the Mongolian word for "salt pond", but in the Qing-dynasty historical records kept in Beijing's Palace Museum, it was translated as "vast". Another explanation of its name is "a smoothly inclined cobblestone slope". In fact, if we combine these three meanings, it would well reflect the true features of Qaidam.

Qaidam Basin measures 800 kilometres from east to west and 400 kilometres from north to south at the widest point, covering a total area of 270,000 square kilometres. It is under the jurisdiction of Haixi Mongolian and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Qinghai. The prefecture's total population is 300,000, less than two people per square kilometre.

Qaidam has been famous within China for its vastness and wildness since ancient times. Its mysteries and wonders are what has always attracted interest. The Kunlun Mountains in its south is the holy paradise where, as told in mythical tales, the Heavenly Queen Mother held banquets. The story about the White Snake Lady stealing the immortal grass (*Ganoderma lucidum*) to save her husband also reportedly took place on that mountain. In the basin there are more than 20 salt lakes, large and small, and many fresh water lakes as well. Around it are snowy mountains, forests and grasslands, and beneath it are plenty of mineral resources.

1. An inscription is carved in Tibetan and Mongolian on a rock beside the Dakendaban Spring to wish good luck to all visitors.
2. The hot spring water forms a warm stream.
3. A yadan formation (by Chapman Lee)
4. Salt water is not buried deep underground, and this makes salt production easy. (by Tian Xiang)
5. The salt produced at the Salt Lake is an important supply to people in the Northwest.
6. Qarhan is China's largest salt producing lake.

The Puzzle of the Mountain's Pipes

There are three man-made triangular caves at the foot of Mount Baigong. The outer two have collapsed. About 20 iron pipes, 10 to 40 centimetres in diameter, stick out from the rocks around the entrance to the central cave. In the cave there are huge pipes buried underground. The pipes and rocks are tightly joined like plumber's fittings, showing superb technique.

On the beach 40 metres from the caves, broken pipes lay among the white sand rocks. They are of different shapes, such as U-pipes, cross pipes and spindle-shaped pipes, with diameters mostly from 0.5 to five centimetres. The inner diameter of a few are as thin as two to three millimetres.

There are also about 100 broken pipes scattered along the waterside, extending over 1,000 metres, in and out of the water. Considering the changes of the water levels, these pipes were probably originally laid under water. These three clusters of pipes are found in an area of about 0.5 square kilometres, so the project, if there was one, must have been a big one.

A Creation of Spacemen?

There has never been any known construction work done in Qaidam. Since the 1930s, most of the modern projects were involved in mining, and it would have been difficult to build this in the remote Toson area, where there are no residents, and even herdsmen seldom go.

The degree of erosion of the pipes indicates they have been there for at least 1,000 years, but at that time the metallurgical technology had not yet highly developed to produce such metal alloy pipes. Thus, it was not a pre-historic product. Tests on the pipes show it consists mainly of iron, but 10 percent of the content remains unidentified.

Since the origin of the pipes is a mystery, some people speculate that they may have been the products of space visitors. If so, there are additional questions, such as why did they come and what was the purpose of such a project?

Wind-Eroded Yadan

We drove about 200 kilometres westward from Delingha to Da Qaidam Town. Nearby, very close to the snowline, is a hot spring called Dakendaban, with water at 85°C to 90°C. It was an unusual experience to bathe in the hot spring amidst the snow scenery. To the northwest is Iqe, where a fork in the road leads you to either Dunhuang

Postulating Qaidam's Origin

One view of our world says that the civilisation on the globe could be traced back millions of years, not just thousands of years. The history of humankind may have had different periods of civilisation in which they were much more highly developed than present times. It is possible that there have been cycles during which civilisation developed to a certain degree, then disasters caused by human beings, such as destruction of the ecological environment, exhaustion of energy or war, happened and wiped out the whole human race.

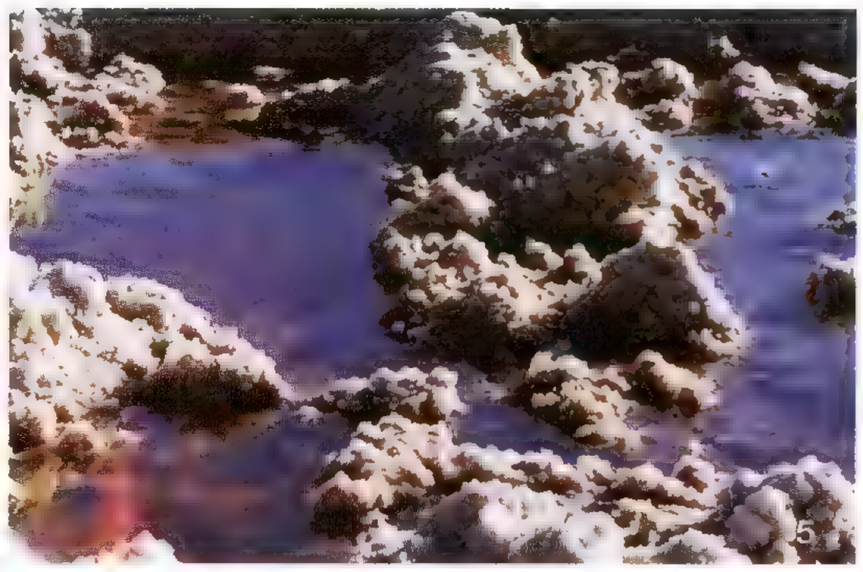
The origin of the metal pipes inlaid in the rocks on the fringe of the Qaidam Basin might indicate a prehistoric civilisation, according to some of the predications.

Some people even assume that there could have been two pre-historical nuclear bomb explosions at Lop Nur and the Qaidam Basin, thus leaving the two as large barren basins.

Article by Tian Xiang

via Dangjin Pass on the Qilian Mountains or to the west, across the Altun Mountains to Ruoqiang and Hotan in Xinjiang.

On our way west we came to Yiliping and lodged at the Road Maintenance Station. The workers kindly welcomed us and after lunch we took a road maintenance truck to view the Town of Devils, a place of the yadan landform, 16 kilometres away.



This area is a really fascinating creation of nature. "Yadan" in Uygur means steep hills and refers specifically to wind-eroded terrain formed by ridges, odd-shaped hills and wide gullies. This unique landform in the western part of Qaidam Basin has endless hills of varied shapes covering 100 square kilometres.

Qarhan: A World of Salt

We returned to Iqe and turned south past Da Qaidam, Xiao Qaidam and Mahuang Gully to get to the "Thousand-Foot Salt Bridge". We looked forward to seeing a bridge over a glittering salt lake, but in fact we were already on the "bridge" for quite awhile before we realised it. The road was black and so was the land around it, like a just-ploughed field. There was not a trace of white salt or salt water. Our driver explained that the black soil was actually encrusted salt covered with a layer of black dust. We explored the black fields and found many holes in the ground. When the water evaporates, the surface becomes a crust of salt. After the surface crust is removed, another salty crust is formed. If the exploitation proceeds unabated, the salt lake may eventually be exposed.

The salt bridge is solid and easily maintained. Potholes are simply filled with salt powder and salt water. After days of sunshine and wind, it becomes as hard as cement.

Past the salt field, we saw a vast blue lake, the real face of Qarhan. Standing by the vast lake, we seemed to see fishing boats sailing, camel teams trudging by and villages shaded in green trees, but in fact they were the ridges built in the salt fields and sand dunes on the shore which had inspired our imagination.

The Mystery of **Qaidam Basin**

Plants Growing in the Gobi Desert

1. With a strong vitality, these shrub plants have grown here for at least 20 years.
2. This plant of thorns is among the very few desert plants that still retain their wide, though small, leaves.
3. Both the leaves and flowers of this plant have become needle-shaped so as to reduce water evaporation.
4. Red willows play an important role in stabilising the sand.

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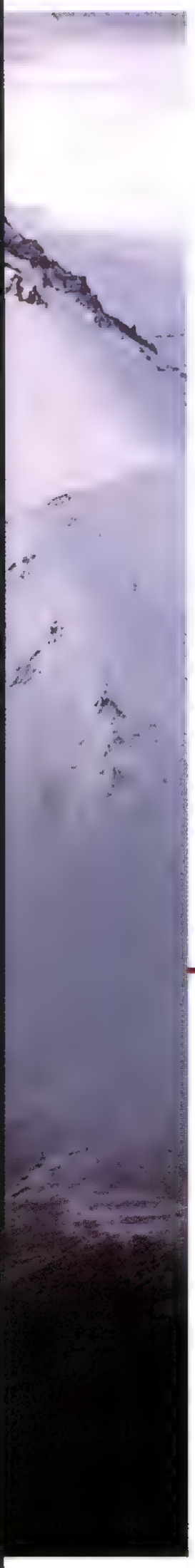


Kunlun Mountains: Qinghai-Tibet Crossover

Photos & article by Tian Xiang

Qarhan is very close to Golmud, only about 50 kilometres and a little over an hour by car. Golmud is the second largest city in Qinghai and is also the communications hub for routes to Tibet, Xinjiang or Dunhuang in Gansu.

In Golmud we were overjoyed that the high-grade hotels had baths since our last proper bath had been over a week ago. After two days' rest, we were again on the road along the Qinghai-Tibet Highway towards the Kunlun Mountains.

Our Heads Announced Altitude Changes

Thirty kilometres out of Golmud we began to see tall mountains. They were magnificent and beautiful despite being steep and barren.

The altitude of the road we were driving on was rising gradually. Though it was hard to see the change, our heads could feel the difference. My headache started very suddenly as I lowered my head; the pain then became continuous, especially at the temples where small drums kept beating inside. My heart beat faster and I could not catch my breath. Even talking became difficult.

Wherever there were herdsmen and flocks of sheep and cattle, we stopped to take photos. Focusing the camera, especially with the long zooms, was difficult. Normally you hold your breath before pressing the shutter, but the lack of oxygen made this a big problem. After each photo we struggled with our breathing like an asthma patient.

Hospitable Herdsmen on the Plateau

On our journey, we met a father and son moving their flocks to another pasture. They were squatting in the desert boiling tea with dried dung. All their daily necessities, including a tent, were packed on a few big camels. The sheep were huddled together to fight the bitter cold and this was mid-July!

We also came across a summer pasture with a flock of yaks being raised by a big family. The hill tops were already covered with a thin layer of frost and snow. Wafting from the temporary tents came the fragrance of boiling milk. A man with a tanned face invited us in to have some tea. Later his wife and children demonstrated yak milking and did housework so we could take photos. These hospitable people seldom met people from distant places.

We reluctantly left the tents. Soon I found myself in difficulty. I could not climb up a slope which a five-year-old local child could easily climb. Finally I had to use all my four limbs, like our ape

1. A snow-capped peak with a glacier at its foot in the Kunlun Mountains
2. Herdsmen moving to another pasture
3. A Muslim restaurant at Xiaonanchuan opened by people of the Salar ethnic group
4. Tibetan students of the Sichuan Ethnic College in Chengdu on their way to Lhasa to visit their parents. It takes them a week to travel by train from Chengdu to Xining and then ride a bus from Xining or Golmud to Lhasa.
5. The stone markers established at the Kunlun Mountain Pass seem not to be in harmony with the environment.

ancestors would have done. Here, at 4,000 metres up, we were just like sick people.

Strange Dreams on a Cold Night

Xiaonanchuan is close to the snowline on the Kunlun Mountains. Through the evening glow I saw a glacier in a valley no more than one kilometre from the highway. It seemed as if it would soon flow under our feet. The temperature suddenly dropped after 7 p.m. and I had to put on a down coat before the colour returned to my face. I did not realise that I would need padded trousers in the summer on the mountain. My legs were almost frozen in my thin woollen underwear. After a quick supper in a roadside restaurant, I lost no time in slipping under a thick cotton quilt and heavy blanket in the Road Maintenance Team's reception house.

I had many strange dreams that night and woke up many times. The rest of the group also had nightmares, so we guessed it resulted from the altitude.

Xiaonanchuan sits at 4,300 metres above sea level. I had a constant headache and dizziness. No matter what I tried to do, my brain could not function properly due to the lack of oxygen.

Heartbeats in the Night

In the cold moonlight, the snow-capped

1. Yaochi Lake, the legendary pond belonging to the Heavenly Queen Mother, is 12 kilometres long and five kilometres wide. At an altitude over 4,000 metres, it is home to migratory birds in spring and summer. (by Liu Hui)
2. Yaks are the animals best adapted to the tough conditions on the highland of 4,000 metres above sea level.
3. Taoism believers showing their respect for the Kunlun Mountains, the legendary origin of this religion (by Liu Hui)
4. Pilgrims make special trips to Kunlun Mountains in July or August to worship the birthplace of Taoism. (by Liu Hui)

Taoist Pilgrims on Kunlun Mountains

The holy Kunlun Mountains are not only the ancestral land of Taoism but also the source of mountains and rivers in China, a Taoist high priest accounted. According to him, the spiritual movement and stillness originate here, as do the Chinese mountains and rivers. Taoists who want to attain the benefits of self-cultivation must come to worship on Yuxu Peak and the Heavenly Queen Mother's Pond on the Kunlun Mountains.

A Taiwan Taoist priest named Liao came to the Kunlun Mountains alone three times between 1988 and 1991. On his third visit, 16 months long, he is said to have attained the real spirit of Heaven and Earth. As this news spread, a tide of worshippers came. In the past seven years, over 40 groups of worshippers from Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong have visited.

The worshipping route leaves the Qinghai-Tibet Highway as the river forks and winds along Kunlun River valley, trundling over 40 kilometres to reach the Kunlun Mountain Gate. Here, Taoist worshippers normally stop to beg the ancestors to open the gate to let them in.

The first site for worshipping is Yuxu Peak at 6,000 metres above sea level. Legends say this was the secondary palace of Princess Yuxu, younger sister of the Heavenly Jade Emperor, and also the place where Jiang Ziya, as described in the mythical novel *Canonisation of Gods*, cultivated himself for 40 years to obtain his "Five Element Taoism".

The Heavenly Queen Mother's Pond is located in the wilderness 70 kilometres west of Yuxu Peak, 300 kilometres from Golmud. Sitting amid a grassland over 4,000 metres, the "pond" is actually a big clear lake covering 60 square kilometres. It was said that the Peach Festival described in the mythical novel *Journey to the West* was held here.

To take part in a journey like this, one must be prepared for the hardships on the way, such as altitude sickness, coldness and even getting lost. For enthusiastic believers, of course, these will not discourage them from going to a holy place.

Photos and article by Liu Hui

mountain tops and glaciers appeared blue and translucent. It was extremely quiet, not a single sound was heard. Then I suddenly heard a drum sound, apparently coming from afar. I was wondering how it could be that people beat drums late in the night until I realised the sound came from myself. It was my own heartbeat and breathing. This was a brand new experience for me.

At 9 a.m. the next day, we finally arrived at Kunlun Mountain Pass. The altitude was 4,700 metres but I did not feel the headache anymore. After one day and night I had got used to the environment.

Now we were above the snowline. Although it was mid-July, there were patches of snow on the ground. It had snowed at night and now strong winds howled, blowing through the barren mountains and right into our down coats, making us icy cold. It seemed that there had never been summer, nor autumn or spring on the Kunlun Mountains. It was winter all year round.

Nomhon: Shell Ridge and Reed Rafts

After a rest in Golmud, we started our journey east along the southern fringe of the Qaidam Basin.

Survivors in the Sand

To the south along the flat Qinghai-Tibet Highway was the barren Burhan Budai Mountain, then endless deserts. There were grasses, but their leaves were as tiny as needles or scales. Not one blade larger than a bean could be found. There were also trees such as red willow and narrow-leaf oleasters. Tufts of grasses and trees, some flowering or bearing fruit, were scattered among the sand dunes and rocks. I could not help admiring the hardiness of such plants living in such a harsh environment.

Shell Ridge: From Sea to Desert

We went to Nomhon Farm first, then drove northward and passed a red willow grove, bumping along the sandy land where achnatherum grew. After covering about 30 kilometres by crossing back and forth over the river, we came to the Shell Ridge, which, piled up with shells and sand, measures two kilometres long, five to 10 metres high, 70 metres wide at the bottom and 30 metres wide at the top.

Qaidam had progressed from a sea to a lake, then from a lake to a desert. The area north of Nomhon was the lowest part of the basin with many rivers and springs. As water levels dropped the shell fish gathered in the deepest water. When the lake dried up, the shellfish all died there, leaving their shells behind like a dam. Now a tiny stream formed by spring water still flows slowly out of the shell wall into the dry sand. The billions of finger-nail-size shells of a greyish colour with shallow line patterns indicate they are deposits of a calm, low-tide lake.

Reed Rafts: Natural Ferry Boats

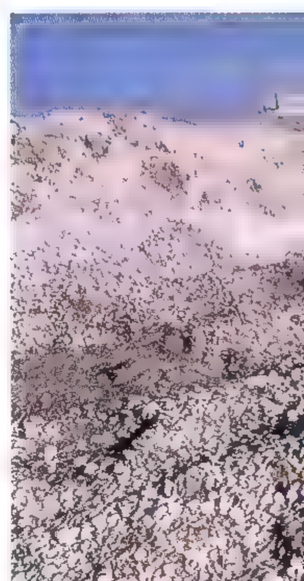
We returned to Nomhon Farm, then drove 20 kilometres further northwest to the swamp area, where we saw many lakes, big and small, with reeds rustling in the wind and ducks quacking loudly.

The reed rafts are unique to Qaidam. Reeds grow with roots weaving around each other, forming sizeable floating blocks. Some are as large as a bed and others, the size of a room. These rafts, in the shape of a shuttle, resemble the rafts of southern China. These floating reed blocks can be safely stood on and punted or towed across the swamp. The Mongolian herdsmen living in this area have never made any boats but used these natural rafts to ferry across the swamps for generations.

Talitaliha Reveals Its 3,000-year History

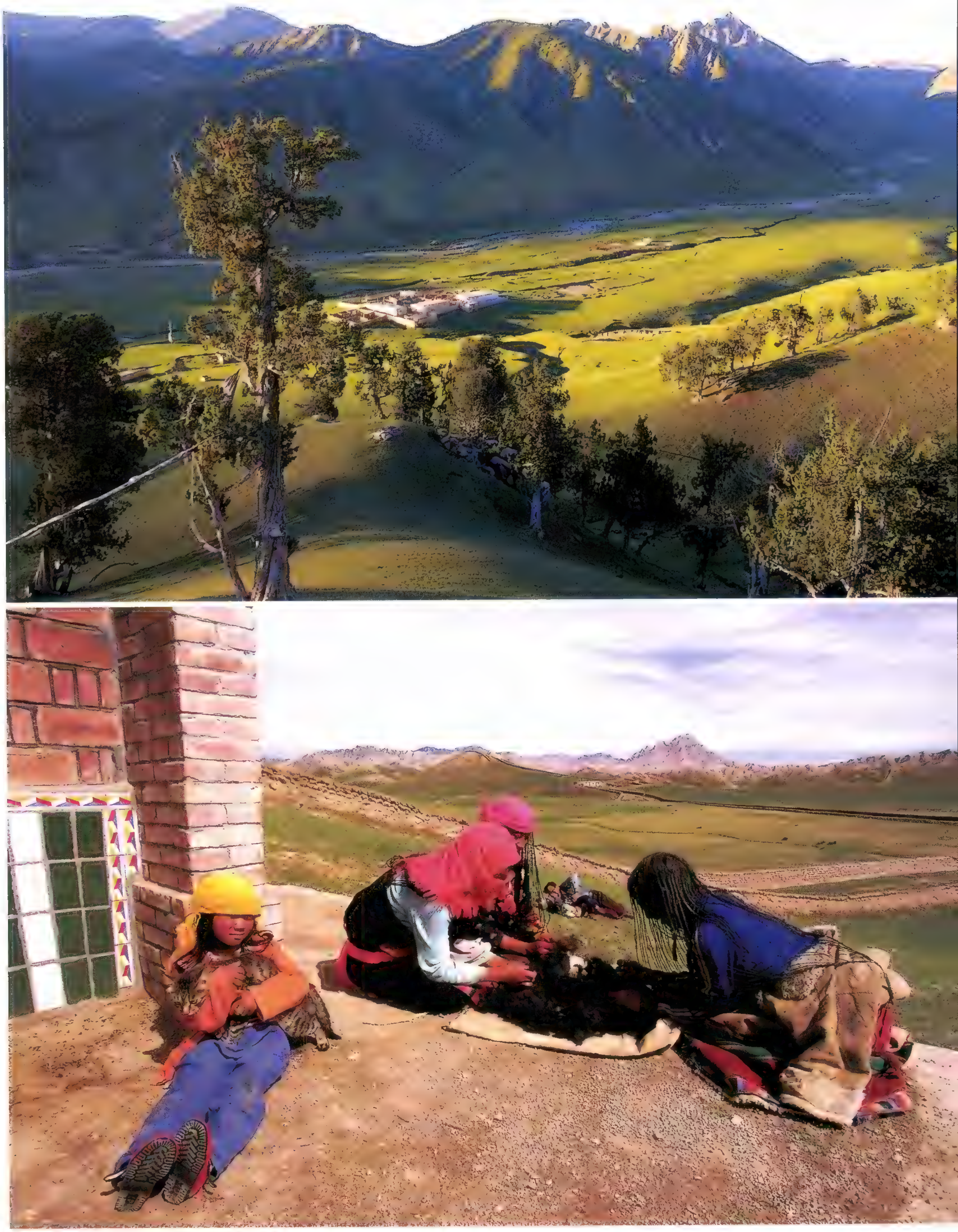
Ancient cultural remains are concentrated in the Nomhon area, and the Talitaliha Cultura Site lies in the farmland of Nomhon Farm.

The cultural site is only a 10-minute walk into the wheat fields. Cultural relics have been found in a layer eight metres thick on this five-hectare site.



1. Shaji, a desert plant found in the lower reaches of the Qaidam River, has become the material for making a nutritious drink. (by Liu Hui)
2. Suoyang, a medicinal herb growing in the desert, is also used to make cakes. (by Jiang Weizhou)
3. An embroidered silk sock discovered in a Tang-dynasty tomb (by Jiang Weizhou)
4. Nomhon Grassland at the lower reaches of the Qaidam River (by Liu Hui)
5. Shell Ridge indicate this area was a sea millions of years ago. (by Liu Hui)
6. A reed boat is something that cannot be found anywhere else. (by Sun Guanyi)
7. At the Nomhon Culture Site in Dulan County, numerous relics of 2,700 years ago were unearthed. (by Jiang Weizhou)

Archaeological excavation revealed ruins of square and round wooden residences, as well as red and black pottery. Other unearthed objects include stoneware such as axe, chisel, knife and arrowhead, bone ware such as spade, needle, awl and arrowhead, and bronzes such as axe, battle-axe and arrowhead. Wheat crops and large quantities of woollen and leather products were also excavated, which proved that the manufacturing level there 3,000 years ago had paralleled that of the Central Plains. It also indicates that China was the first to make woollen products and fine leather shoes in the world.



Dulan: Pastures and Cypress Mountains

Photos & article by Tian Xiang

We left Nomhon Farm and went along the Qinghai-Tibet Highway for about 120 kilometres before arriving at Xiangride. Going south into Burhan Budai Mountain, we reached the Balong International Hunting Ground in half a day. This hunting ground, covering 5,000 square kilometres, sits at an altitude between 4,000 and 5,200 metres, making it probably the highest of its kind in the world. Roaming its area are plateau wild animals such as argalis, white-lip deer, wild donkeys, wild horses, brown bears and others.

Pastures Separated by a 'Great Wall'

Continuing eastward along the highway, we took the fork road about 30 kilometres from Xiangride that led to the mountains in the south. The hunting ground instructor, Lao Yang, led us to see the 1,000-year-old cypress groves. Off the highway less than three kilometres, we rounded a small hill slope and suddenly had a vast pasture before us. Surrounded by mountains, fine and dense grass covered every bit of soil in this pasture. I was amazed, but Lao Yang said the grass would be better if not for last year's drought.

Looking farther on, we saw another wonder: there was a "Great Wall" between the mountains and pasture. Lao Yang explained that the wall was his creation. In 1982, fields were reallocated to the households when the commune members again became private farmers. The pasture was also divided, but the sheep and cattle did not respect the unmarked boundaries. Lao Yang, who was leading a working team to carry out the system of fixing farm output quotas to each household, accepted a farmer's suggestion to build these dividing walls using grass and mud. In other places, fences witn barbed wires were built.

Accompanied by Lao Yang, we visited some of the "castles"— sheep pens and residences — surrounded by the walls. From the mountain top, the separated pasture resembled a miniature version of the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.)

Holy Cypresses Escaped Disasters

At the end of the "Great Wall", only 10 kilometres from the state highway, we came to the Cypress Hills. A temple was found

1. At the Cypress Hills in Reshui County you find a quiet environment and well preserved ancient trees.
2. The vast pasture has been divided by walls into smaller pieces under the responsibility of each individual household.
3. Rock goats living above the snowline (by Sun Guanyi)

Tuguhun — First Kingdom on the Qinghai Plateau

Article by Bai Yu

Dulan County is regarded as Qaidam's grain house, for it has very high yields of qingke barley. The Tuguhun Kingdom (390-664) established its capital in Dulan and ruled this fertile land for 274 years. Many ancient tombs can be found today. In the area from Xiariha to Reshui Gully there are 1,000 of them.

A group of 170 tombs are found in four villages in Reshui Gully 20 kilometres from Dulan. Tomb Xuewei No. 1, one of the largest, has a 60-metre-high earth mound linked with the mountain. It is estimated that 10,000 people would need to work one whole year to finish such a large project.

Many Tang-dynasty cultural relics have been unearthed from the tomb, including silk textiles, wooden chariots, inscribed wooden tablets, and gold and silver utensils. The silk cloth have patterns such as Buddhist images, flying horses, flowers and birds, and some bear the style of Central Asia.

The Tuguhun was originally a branch of the Xianbei (Sienpi) tribe in eastern Liaoning. In 313 during the Western Jin Dynasty it migrated to Qinghai and established a state 16 years later. Dulan became its capital in 390. It was eliminated in 664 by the Tubo Kingdom. During its prosperous period, Tuguhun was the largest kingdom on the Qinghai Plateau with its territory stretching nearly 1,500 kilometres from east to west, covering more than one million square kilometres. Tuguhun had a brilliant culture which blended Sienpi and Han cultures and was also influenced by Persia.

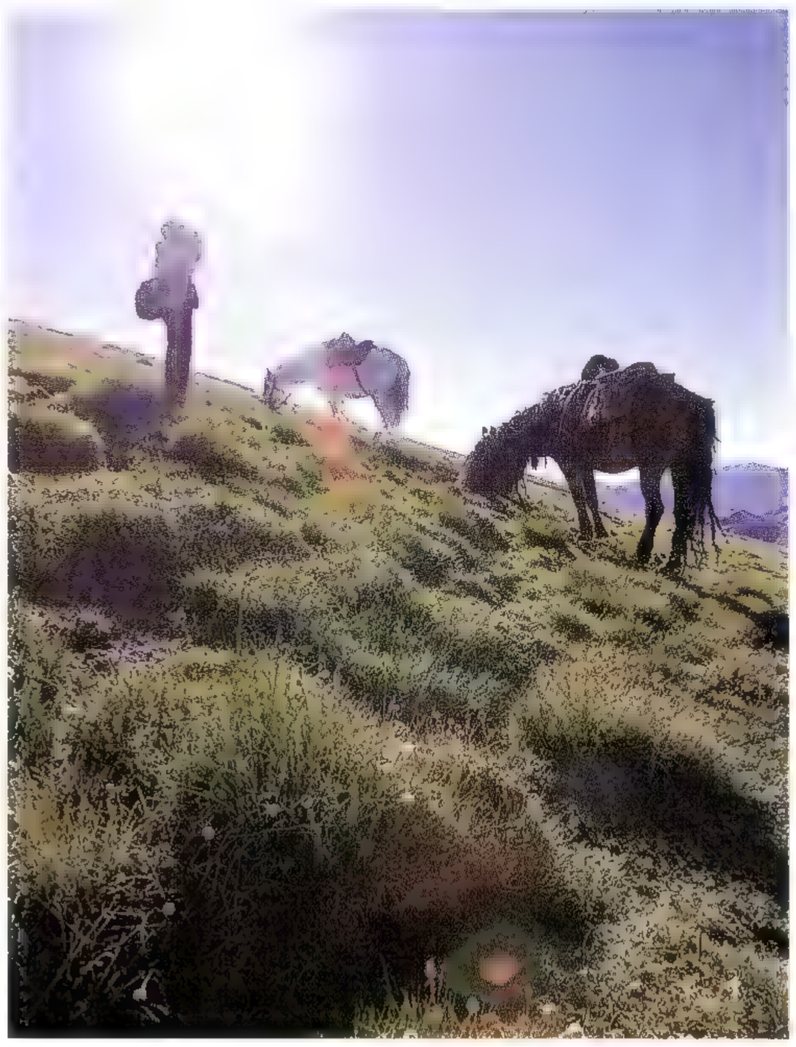
sitting between two cypress-covered mountains, who stood like its front and rear guards, with a stream winding between them. We were surprised that the Qaidam desert could support such luxurious grassland and dense cypress groves, and that over half the trees are 1,000 years old.

The Tibetan herdsmen believe that both the mountain and its ancient trees are holy, and anyone who cuts a holy tree will have disasters befall them. So no one dares touch them.

Thanks to the Tibetans' beliefs these trees have escaped the disasters of China's long history. For instance, the Tuguhun King wanted to build his tomb there, the Tubo army needed cooking fuel on their way to fight the Tang troops and the home-made furnaces needed firewood during the Great Leap Forward in the 1950s.

On the mountain top, I saw the holy altar with piles of Mani stones and the fluttering Buddhist banners. It remains a holy place today.

Translated by M.Q.



1. Only foreigners are allowed to go hunting in the Dulan International Hunting Ground, and hunters must abide by regulations specifying the seasons and the animals that can be shot.
2. The wall marking the borders of each household's pasture looks like a Great Wall.
3. Mutton eaten with the fingers is the main dish of Muslim restaurants in Golmud.
4. This kind of bread has a history of several hundred years in this area.
5. Guanjiaoshan Tunnel on the Xining-Golmud Railway is the highest tunnel in the world.

Tips for Travelling Qaidam

Transport:

There are at least two flights a week from Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Lhasa, Urümqi and Xi'an to Xining. There are also trains from Xi'an going west through Lanzhou to reach Xining or further to Golmud.

Local Transport:

1. There are long-distance buses and a comfortable daily express train (No. 603/604) running from Xining to Tianjun, Delingha and Golmud. Train No. 603 leaves Xining at 6:30 p.m. and arrives in Golmud at 11:30 a.m. the next day. Soft sleeper fare is 230 yuan; hard sleeper fare is 130 yuan.
2. From town to nearby places of interest:

From Tianjun to Heavenly Queen Mother's Chamber is 28 kilometres; to Mount Tianjun, 15 kilometres; to Xiariha Scripture Academy, 20 kilometres; to Lumang Gully, 25 kilometres; to Zhaxijunnai, 50 kilometres; to White-lip Deer Farm, 20 kilometres.

From Delingha to Wulan Cypress Hill is 12 kilometres; to Hurleg Lake, 40 kilometres; to Toson Lake, 7 kilometres; to Mount Baigong, 50 kilometres.

From Da Qaidam Town to Dakendaban is 15 kilometres; to the yadan landform of Yiliping, 200 kilometres.

From Golmud to Qarhan Salt Lake and Salt Bridge is 60 kilometres; to Kunlun Mountain Pass, 130 kilometres; to Heavenly Queen Mother's Pond, 300 kilometres; to Nomhon, 150 kilometres. From Nomhon to Shell Ridge is 30 kilometres and to the reed rafts, 20 kilometres. The Talitaliha Culture Site is within walking distance from Nomhon.

From Dulan to Reshui's Tuguhun Tombs is 20 kilometres; to Changcheng Township and Cypress Hills, 30 kilometres; to the hunting ground, 120 kilometres.

Notes:

There are no regular buses from the prefecture and county towns to the above places of interest; you have to hire cars. Car rental in the prefecture or county towns is about 200 yuan a day, or 100 yuan half a day.

To go to the Heavenly Queen Mother's Pond in the Kunlun Mountains, it's best to hire an experienced guide, driver and good vehicle. China International Tourist Service (CITS) at Golmud can help, Tel/Fax: (979) 413003.

To go to the Dulan Hunting Ground, you need prior approval from the hunting ground, Tel: (977) 232296; or Qinghai Animal Protection Bureau, Tel: (971) 8126709; or CITS in Qinghai.

To hire a car or van to tour the whole Qaidam Basin, contact CITS in Qinghai, Tel: (971) 6131081, Fax: (971) 6131080; or CITS at Golmud. Car rental costs 3-3.5 yuan per km; all Japanese jeeps or vans.

Special Permission:

Tourists from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan or from foreign countries wanting to go to Delingha, Tianjun or Dulan need special permission from the Qinghai Foreign Affairs Office. These areas are still not open or only partially open to tourists. The CITS in Qinghai may help you apply.

Accommodation:

There are hotels with baths at Tianjun, Delingha, Golmud and Dulan. Choice and quality are best at Golmud; rates range from 100 to 300 yuan per night. Cheap hostels or inns charge only 20 to 80 yuan per bed per night.

Xining has more hotel choices, with one three-star hotel and a dozen one- or two-star hotels. Top hotels charge about 300 yuan per night.

Food:

County towns and cities have plenty of restaurants, most of them serving Muslim, Sichuan, Mongolian or Tibetan food. Western food is available in big hotels only.

Muslim food mainly contains mutton and is sometimes eaten with the fingers. Fish is cooked deliciously in a local style by the lakeside.

There are restaurants along the Qinghai-Tibet Highway. Beware that food may not be well done because of the low boiling point at the high altitude.

Specialities:

Zanba: a mix of highland barley flour, milk tea, butter, and sugar. This is the Tibetans' daily staple. Barley porridge: barley grain in mutton soup. Fried Huangyu Carp: the unique plateau carp, dried and fried. Chicken breast cooked with egg-white and Chinese caterpillar fungus, the Qinghai grassland's special product. Ginseng Fruit: a local product often made as a dessert with green plum, lotus seeds, walnuts, raisins and crystal sugar.

Other Ideas:

From Xining, you can join a one- or two-day tour to Tar Monastery (the largest temple of Tibetan Buddhism in Qinghai), Qinghai Lake, Bird Island and Caka Salt Lake. The Qinghai Hotel and Xining Guesthouse organise tours, as do various tourist agencies. Tours cost 100 to 300 yuan, depending on their length.

From Da Qaidam you can continue on to visit Xinjiang or Dunhuang.

Those heading for Tibet should plan to end their tour in Golmud.

Applying for Permission to Enter Tibet:

You must join the Tibetan Tourist Group at the International Tourist Service in Golmud then, with appropriate documents, you can apply to enter Tibet.

Tour cost: 1,380 yuan per person for bus sleeper; 1,180 yuan per person for bus seat. Costs include application fee, life insurance, and transportation and guide fee for three days in Lhasa. Prices may be higher for small groups. Food and accommodation costs are borne by travellers.

Comfort and Health:

For the cold: Even in summer, you may need a thick coat and woollen clothing. The higher the altitude, the colder the weather. After September it snows heavily around the Kunlun Mountains.

The high altitude can be dangerous for people with heart disease or high blood pressure.

Medicines for colds, diarrhoea and headache, and moisturising and suntan lotions should be brought with you.

Anyone with respiratory illnesses or rhinitis may wish to buy a small bottle of oxygen (about 20 yuan per bottle) to cope with the high altitude.

Daybreak at Mount Taishan (by Liu Fuju)

SELECTED TOURS

Celebrating the Millennium
at the Turn of the Century

As the new century approaches, people of all generations feel very honoured to witness the arrival of the year 2000. Relatives and friends will be drawn together to various places to celebrate the turn of the century and see the dawn of the new age. With this in mind, we highlight some of the excellent programmes that will be held in China to celebrate the start of this new millennium.

Mount Taishan, Shandong

Greeting the Sun on Mount Taishan

Time: Dec. 31, 1999 — Jan. 3, 2000

Place and transport: Activities will take place in Tai'an, on Mount Taishan, and in Qufu and Liangshan (Dongping). The railway runs past Jinan, the provincial capital, to Tai'an (from where you climb Mount Taishan) and Yanzhou (where buses take you to Qufu, Confucius' hometown).

Activities: **1.** A mass of 10,000 people, including representatives of China's 56 ethnic groups, gather at Mount Taishan to welcome the dawn of the new century. **2.** Unveiling ceremony to celebrate the completion of the rock carving of the huge Chinese character "dragon". **3.** Special tours will be organised to Qufu and Liangshan.

Jiangsu Province

The Tolling of Ancient Bells

Time: Midnight, Dec. 31, 1999

Place and transport: Nanjing, Zhenjiang, Suzhou, Wuxi, Changzhou and other cities. Fly to Nanjing or go to the different cities via Shanghai by air, train or bus.

Activities: **1.** Tolling of the bells to celebrate the beginning of the millennium in the province's numerous temples, such as Jinshan Temple in Zhenjiang, Hanshan Temple in Suzhou, Lingshan Giant Buddha in Wuxi, Tianning Temple in Changzhou and Qixia Temple in Nanjing. **2.** Performances at various sites, such as the square of the Confucius Temple in Nanjing, Suzhou's Paradise, Panmen Scenic Area, Guanqian Street and Zhenjiang's 21st Century Park.

the Giant Buddha on Lingshan Hill, Wuxi (by Leng Dengyi)

Nanchang, Jiangxi

2,000 White Doves Released

Time: Early morning of Jan. 1, 2000

Place and transport: August 1 Square at the city centre of Nanchang, capital of Jiangxi Province. Transport facilities in the city are convenient. Visitors can get to Nanchang either by train or plane.

Activities: 2,000 white doves and 2,000 balloons are simultaneously released at the August 1 Square, while 100 twenty-year-olds commence the around-the-city long-distance race.

Harbin, Heilongjiang

The Millennium Ice and Snow World Festival

Time: Late Dec. 1999 — Mid-Feb. 2000

Place and transport: On the Songhua River and its banks, including the area in front of the Flood-Control Memorial Tower in Harbin. Many buses reach there.

Activities: Ice and snow carving works will be displayed at Harbin's Ice and Snow World, which covers an area of 280,000 square metres. Over 10,000 snow and ice sculptures will be shown. The scale of this year's Millennium Ice and Snow World Festival is 10 times bigger than former similar ice lantern festivals held in Harbin.

Ice sculptures in Harbin (by Guanghui)

ZHEJIANG

The 21st-Century Liang-Zhu Wedding Festival

Time: Dec. 29, 1999 — Jan. 2, 2000

Place and transport: Liang-Zhu Culture Park in Gaoqiao Town in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province. Special minibuses shuttle the15 kilometres from Ningbo city to Liang-Zhu Culture Park. There are regular flights from all major cities including Hong Kong to Ningbo.

Activities: **1.** Lighting and delivering the holy torch of love. **2.** The celebration of marriage attended by 999 couples, who will plant silk trees and have their names carved on the Century Pyramid. **3.** A collective wedding ceremony for 199 young couples. **4.** Performances focused on the *Butterfly Lovers* story and local folklore on wedding customs. **5.** Romantic tours organised for both new and old couples. **6.** Special Liang-Zhu evening parties.

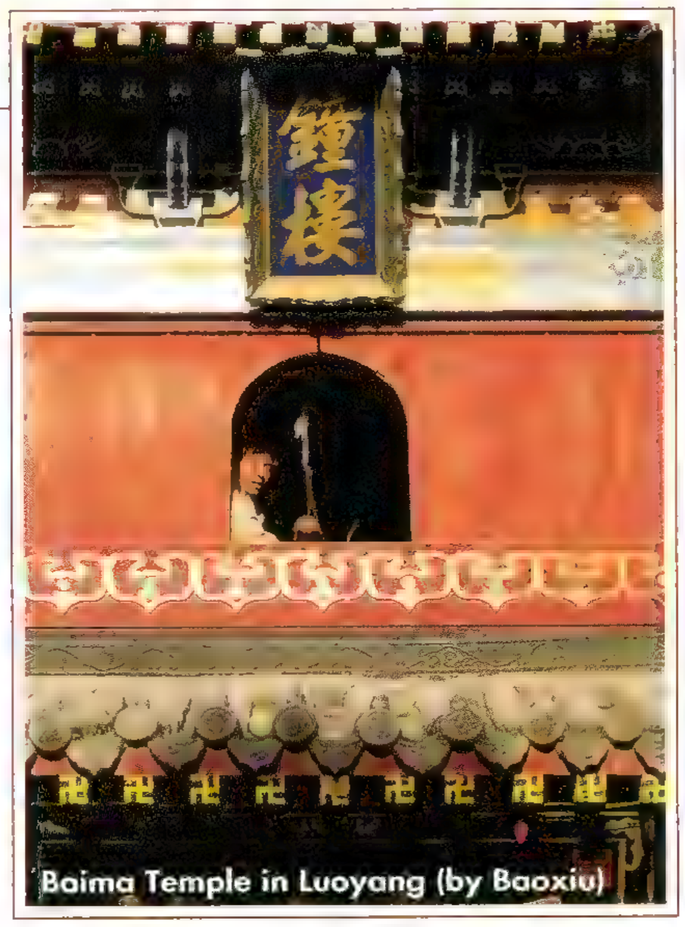
HENAN

The Tolling of Bells at Ancient Temples

Time: Dec. 31, 1999 — Jan. 1, 2000

Place and transport: Baima Temple in Luoyang, Shaolin Temple at Songshan and Xiangguo Temple in Kaifeng. Regular flights run from all major cities to Zhengzhou, the provincial capital, and transport facilities are very convenient from Zhengzhou to the activity sites.

Activities: **1.** Shaolin and Taiji martial arts performances and fireworks at the Henan Museum Square in Zhengzhou. **2.** Tolling of the bells at Baima, Shaolin and Xiangguo — the three major temples in the Central Plains — to welcome the arrival of the new century.



Baima Temple in Luoyang (by Baoxiu)

Sunrise at Laolongtou, Shanhaiguan (by Xiaogang)

SHANHAIGUAN, HEBEI

Tolling the Bell at the Starting Point of the Great Wall

Time: Midnight, Dec. 31, 1999

Place and transport: Laolongtou (Old Dragon Head) at Shanhaiguan Pass in Qinhuangdao City, Hebei. Take the train from Beijing to Qinhuangdao, then minibuses to Old Dragon Head at Shanhaiguan Pass.

Activities: **1.** Bell sounding at Old Dragon Head for the arrival of the new century. **2.** Large-scale fireworks show, and performances of acrobatics, operas, and songs and dances. **3.** Enjoying the night scenes of the brightly illuminated Shanhaiguan Pass and Old Dragon Head. **4.** Other tourist activities around the city.

CHONGQING

Mount Jinfo Ice and Snow Festival

Time: Dec. 31, 1999 — Jan. 21, 2000

Place and transport: Mount Jinfo in Nanchuan City, Chongqing. Take a bus from Chongqing to Nanchuan and change to a minibus to the Mount Jinfo Scenic Area.

Activities: Enjoying and playing in the ice and snow, spending the turning of the century at the top of the snowy mountain.

Snow-capped Chinese fir trees (by Dai Xu)

Jiayuguan Pass

GANSU

Sun Watching and Praying for Peace on the Silk Road

Time: Dec. 31, 1999 — Feb. 17, 2000

Place and transport: Jiayuguan Pass, Dunhuang and Xiahe. Fly to Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province, and then change to a train or bus to go to the various places.

Activities: **1.** Watching the sunset and sunrise at the Jiayuguan Tower, the top of Humming Sand Mountain and Yumen Pass. **2.** On Feb. 17, 2000, at Labrang Monastery in Xiahe, grand scripture chanting ceremony will be held to pray for peace for the 21st century.

BEIJING

China Century Platform Unveiling Ceremony

Time: 10 p.m., Dec. 31, 1999 — Jan. 1, 2000

Place and transport: China Century Platform is situated at the Military Museum, outside the south gate of Yuyuantan Park in western Beijing. Take the subway to the Military Museum Station, or take buses No. 1, 4, 21, 52, 57 and 337 to the Military Museum stop.

Activities: Grand celebrations for the millennium — the unveiling ceremony for the completion of China Century Platform; various song and dance performances.

Activities celebrating the arrival of the year 2000 and the inauguration of the national program "Touring the Divine Land in the New Century" will be held simultaneously in cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Tai'an, Zhenjiang, Chengdu, Harbin, Urümqi, Zhengzhou, and Sanya. These activities will be shown on television all over China.

In the 48 hours from Dec. 31, 1999 to Jan. 1, 2000, *China Tourism* will organise 200 photographers from the mainland of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao to take pictures of the significant and interesting events, characters and scenes that appear all over China at the turn of the century. We will then choose the best photos to hold an exhibition and publish them in a large album as well. Moreover, these excellent photos and stories will appear in a special issue of *China Tourism* in 2000.

CUSTOMS

HAIR-DO COMPETITION OF THE LISU

Photos & article by Song Ming

To beautify yourself through hair-styling is very common, and it is no exception for the women of the Lisu people, one of China's ethnic minorities. But the traditional hair-do competition held in Dechang on the first and seventh day of the first lunar month is more than a contest of hair-styling — it brings the hope that life in the new year will be as smooth as the hair.

The Kuoshi Festival is the Lisus' most important festival of the year. It falls on different days in different regions around the Chinese New Year (Spring Festival), and is celebrated in varied ways. For the Lisus in Xiao Nanshan Village in Dechang County, Sichuan Province, the hair-styling competitions are an important part of the festival celebrations. Lisu women who have been busy all year round with household chores, such as raising pigs and sheep, looking after the children, growing hemp and weaving cloth, all take a break on the first and seventh day of the first lunar month, when the competitions are held.

At daybreak on the New Year's Day, the men get up to cook, tidy up and prepare for the sacrificial ceremony, while the women, freed from housework, dress themselves. After breakfast, all villagers gather at the competition site, which is usually set on a piece of flat land or around corn barns. This is a particularly happy day for unmarried girls, to whom the hair-do competition is just the same as a beauty contest. They all dress in their best clothes and tie a red band around the waist, each witn a comb in hand

Married women are just as eager to take part in the event. Even five-year-olds join in. As the competition begins, all you can see is the quick movement of the combs and the gentle rise and fall of hair. The men and children enthusiastically cheer amidst great excitement.

After combing their hair, the participants have to make braids, and the first to finish is the winner. If a married woman wins, she is regarded as the most hardworking lady in the village and a model for other women. If the winner is single, she is regarded as diligent, understanding and fit for marriage, and thus she will be the target of many young men. The last to finish is considered lazy and unable to cope with life, but no-one makes fun of her; instead she is encouraged to do better next year. After the contest, the women and girls tie their hair up with a traditional scarf, then head back to the village to do their embroidery and weaving.

In the old days, other competitions also went on at the same time — the men would go hunting in the mountains and children catch rats and birds. Today these events are no longer held. In some places Lisu women have simplified their hair-do competition, but those living in Xiao Nanshan Village still host the event annually. On the seventh day, they have a repeat of the contest.

Translated by F. Huang

1. Even little girls take part in the contest, with the help of their mothers.
2. The Lisus' New Year hair-do competition expresses people's good wishes for a year as smooth as their hair.

NEW SCENIC SPOT

Stone Forests
on the Grassland in Inner Mongolia

Photos & article by Wang Aifeng

Location of Asihatu Stone Forest

Asihatu Stone Forest sits in Hexigten Banner in Inner Mongolia and occupies an area of about 10 square kilometres. Situated at the foot of the Greater Hinggan Range, its unique topography is the result of the erosion of the alpine winds.

The formations stand guard over the wilderness. Rough and eye-catching, they vary greatly in shape and each has its own characteristic features. Over the years the local people have given many of them descriptive names, such as Genghis Khan's Tether Stone, Divine-Sword, South Heavenly Gate, Goddess Stone and Sisters Stone. Visitors may not see the likeness at first because the right angle, light, time and position are required to conjure up such images.

1. The stone man stands as a sentry over the mountain.
2. A lone figure shows the huge size of the stone forest.

Not far from the stone forest is the Bayan Obo Nature Reserve, where mountains, forests and grasslands join in a beautiful landscape. The best season to visit is from July to September. From September 10 to 25 is the best part of autumn, as the leaves change to crimson and golden yellow, creating a picture pleasing to the eye.

Starting from Chifeng by bus, it takes six hours to reach the stone forests. About 100 kilometres southwest of the stone forests are the ruins of an ancient Yuan-dynasty city on the banks of Dalai Lake. And about 30 kilometres northeast of the banner seat of Hexigten is a hot spring.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

An Ingenious Carver of Sea Rocks

Article by Yu Shouyi

Professor Hong Shiqing, 70, is a native of Jinjiang, Fujian Province. He learned to paint at the Shanghai Art School and furthered his studies of art at the Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts. Upon graduation, he taught in the Engraving Department of the academy. Among his teachers are great masters such as Qi Baishi, Huang Binhong, Pan Tianshou and Liu Haisu. Besides engraving, Hong also excels in traditional Chinese painting, gouache, finger painting and seal cutting.

Since 1985, Professor Hong started his "land art" on Dalu Island of Zhejiang and Chongwu Peninsula of Fujian Province. His 100 rock carvings done over 10 years of painstaking work have turned the two sites into outdoor art museums and great attractions to tourists.

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2. A lone figure shows the huge size of the stone forest.

Not far from the stone forest is the Bayan Obo Nature Reserve, where mountains, forests and grasslands join in a beautiful landscape. The best season to visit is from July to September. From September 10 to 25 is the best part of autumn, as the leaves change to crimson and golden yellow, creating a picture pleasing to the eye.

Starting from Chifeng by bus, it takes six hours to reach the stone forests. About 100 kilometres southwest of the stone forests are the ruins of an ancient Yuan-dynasty city on the banks of Dalai Lake. And about 30 kilometres northeast of the banner seat of Hexigten is a hot spring.

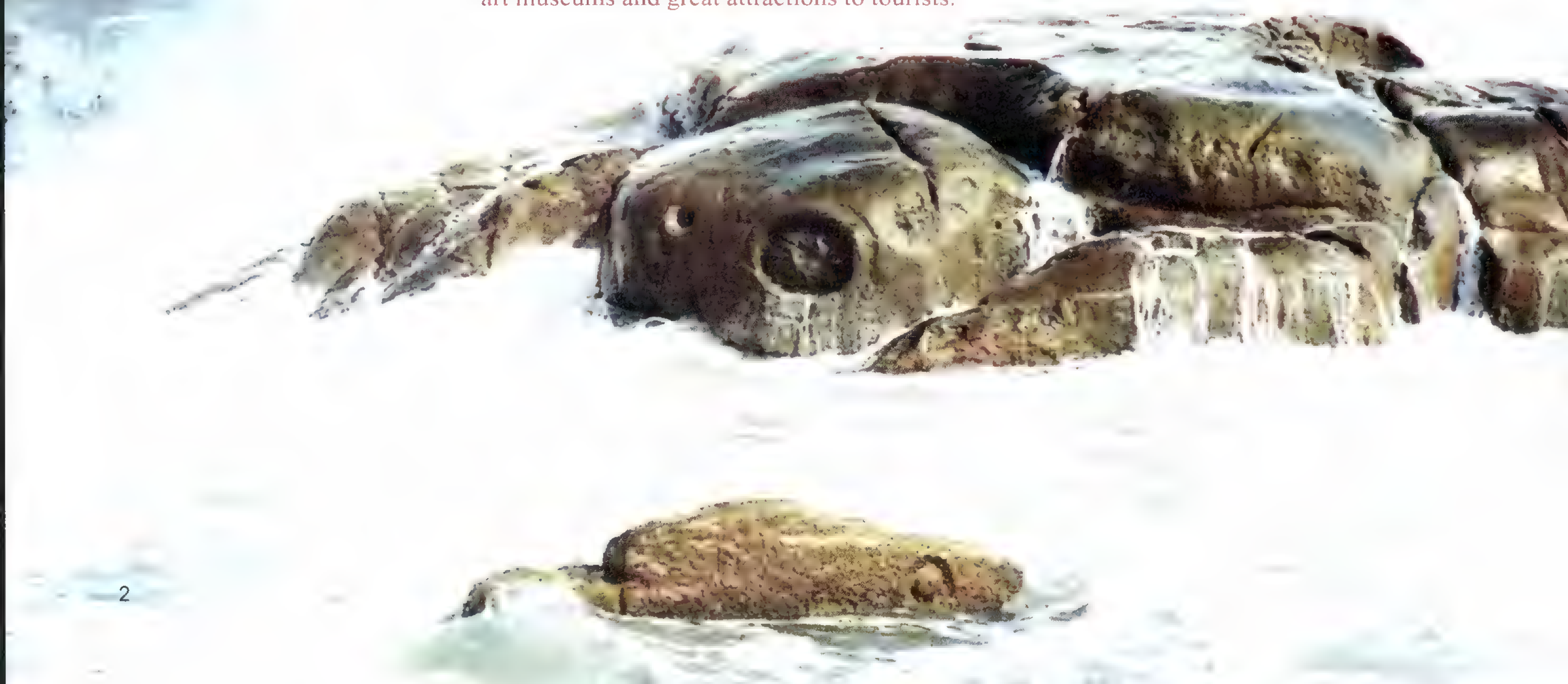
Translated by Xiong Zhenru

An Ingenious Carver of Sea Rocks

Article by Yu Shouyi

Professor Hong Shiqing, 70, is a native of Jinjiang, Fujian Province. He learned to paint at the Shanghai Art School and furthered his studies of art at the Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts. Upon graduation, he taught in the Engraving Department of the academy. Among his teachers are great masters such as Qi Baishi, Huang Binhong, Pan Tianshou and Liu Haisu. Besides engraving, Hong also excels in traditional Chinese painting, gouache, finger painting and seal cutting.

Since 1985, Professor Hong started his "land art" on Dalu Island of Zhejiang and Chongwu Peninsula of Fujian Province. His 100 rock carvings done over 10 years of painstaking work have turned the two sites into outdoor art museums and great attractions to tourists.



Blending with the Wilderness

Dalu is a solitary island of only 1.7 square kilometres remote from modern life, while the Chongwu coast has a five-kilometre-long beach, dotted with jagged rocks and with the ancient Ming-dynasty city walls standing not far away. On the rocks of these two different places are a series of unique carvings.

Unlike the usual outdoor sculptures which stand out in bold relief, these rock carvings hide in the wilderness, awaiting observant travellers to discover them. Very often, people are taken by surprise. For example, the 23-metre-long turtle carved on a dark rock at Chongwu seems to be swimming into the sea. At high tide, it creates a rhythmic and poetic scene, together with the pounding waves.

Co-operating with Nature

Professor Hong has imposed a new concept in art creation — man should co-operate with nature while creating an art work. He believes that things must follow their own course, so his first step is to size up the rock. He mulls over its size and shape and then decides what he can do to it. Only after this does he begin the artistic processing. Through his careful cutting and chiselling, the carving is done, with almost no artificial trace. His works demonstrate what he believes — the less knife and hammer work, the better. Hong always does his best to keep the original shapes and veins of the rough rocks so as to make the art works look natural. Using various carving techniques, such as line cutting, relief and round engraving, he creates artistic images that stand between the real and the unreal.

Let the Wind, Rain and Sea Finish the Job

When Hong Shiqing creates a rock carving, he never does the final hammering or chiselling, but purposely leaves some parts of the work unfinished. He says, "My carving of the rock usually does not exceed 40 percent. Mother Nature has already done one-third of the work, I just do another third and leave the rest to the pounding of sea water and the weathering by the wind, sunshine and rain." That is to say, in the passage of time there is always an eternal carver at work. Truly, the large group of rock carvings Hong Shiqing created on Dalu Island a decade ago have today harmoniously blended with nature.

1. A fish, created with a few chisel strokes, is stranded in the forest.
2. The turtle on the coast of Chongwu is 23 metres long and 15 metres wide.
3. Various kinds of fish are created with a few masterful strokes. (by Er Dongqiang)

Creativity Giving Life to Art

Article by Chen Menglin

"In the 1950s, I was naive and took a roundabout course in my artistic creation," Hong Shiqing says. "I tried to paint with crumpled paper, a row of paintbrushes and a spray gun. Consequently all I produced was only handiwork or chemical work. Once I asked Huang Binhong what paintbrush he used. He told me: 'You can find the best brushes in a primary school wastepaper basket.' Later I said to Pan Tianshou: 'I sketched in Yandang Mountain and found the square rocks you paint come from there.' He countered: 'But you can paint round rocks.' These two great masters' remarks enlightened me, and I never forget them. Whatever the subject, the brushwork is the same. While using different tools, the method of expression should be different too." Hong added that he admires Pan Tianshou's concept of inheritance and innovation — new ideas based on carrying tradition forward and keeping to the national spirit.

On the concept of imparting new ideas in the arts, Hong Shiqing thinks differently. Some past artists have good brushwork but have no new ideas. Neither do modern paintings which, far from showing good brushwork, simply copy Western styles and seek novelty. Works with new ideas not only deal with new subject matter using new and high-grade techniques of expression, but also carry new artistic concepts. They push traditional art to new heights and, as Newton put it, "stand on the giant's shoulders", as they are accepted by society and history.

Therefore, Hong Shiqing paints everything: flowers and birds, landscapes and human figures, using different

techniques to depict different subjects. Tigers in ancient Chinese paintings, for example, are not accurately shaped. So, sometimes he mixes the Chinese brushwork and line drawing with the Western scientific elements of shapes. In colour application, he uses either modern methods or traditional ways as in the ancient Dunhuang murals. When he finds it difficult to present some subjects in traditional Chinese painting, he chooses gouache instead.

"The key to a successful painting lies in the spirit," Hong Shiqing remarks. "An art work must have great spirit, not just a little or a lowly one. It must never make the viewer lose his spirit. A good art work is eternal!"

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

1. **Hong Shiqing (waving) works together with stonemasons at Chongwu.**
2. **This loveable dolphin was mostly made by nature. The artist carved only its eyes and mouth.**
3. **This ray, having been "living" on Dalu Island for over 10 years, is covered with moss.**
4. **A sole carrying a passenger (by Er Dongqiang)**
5. **Except the eyes and gills, the shark's whole body is delineated by natural crevices. (by Er Dongqiang)**

Tips for the Traveller

Dalu Island is a small isle in Yuhuan County in Wenzhou Prefecture, Zhejiang Province. Tourists can include it on tours of Yandang Mountain or Nanxi River.

Buses go from Yandang Mountain to Kanmen Pier, Yuhuan County, from where a regular ferry leaves daily at 8:30 a.m. to Dalu Island and returns in the afternoon. There is also a hotel on the island.

Chongwu Peninsula is in Hui'an County, Fujian Province, about 80 kilometres from Quanzhou. Regular buses run from Quanzhou to the ancient city on the peninsula, and the rock carvings on the beach can be reached on foot.

Location of Rock Carvings

XIAOMEISHA: THE OCEAN WORLD OF SHENZHEN

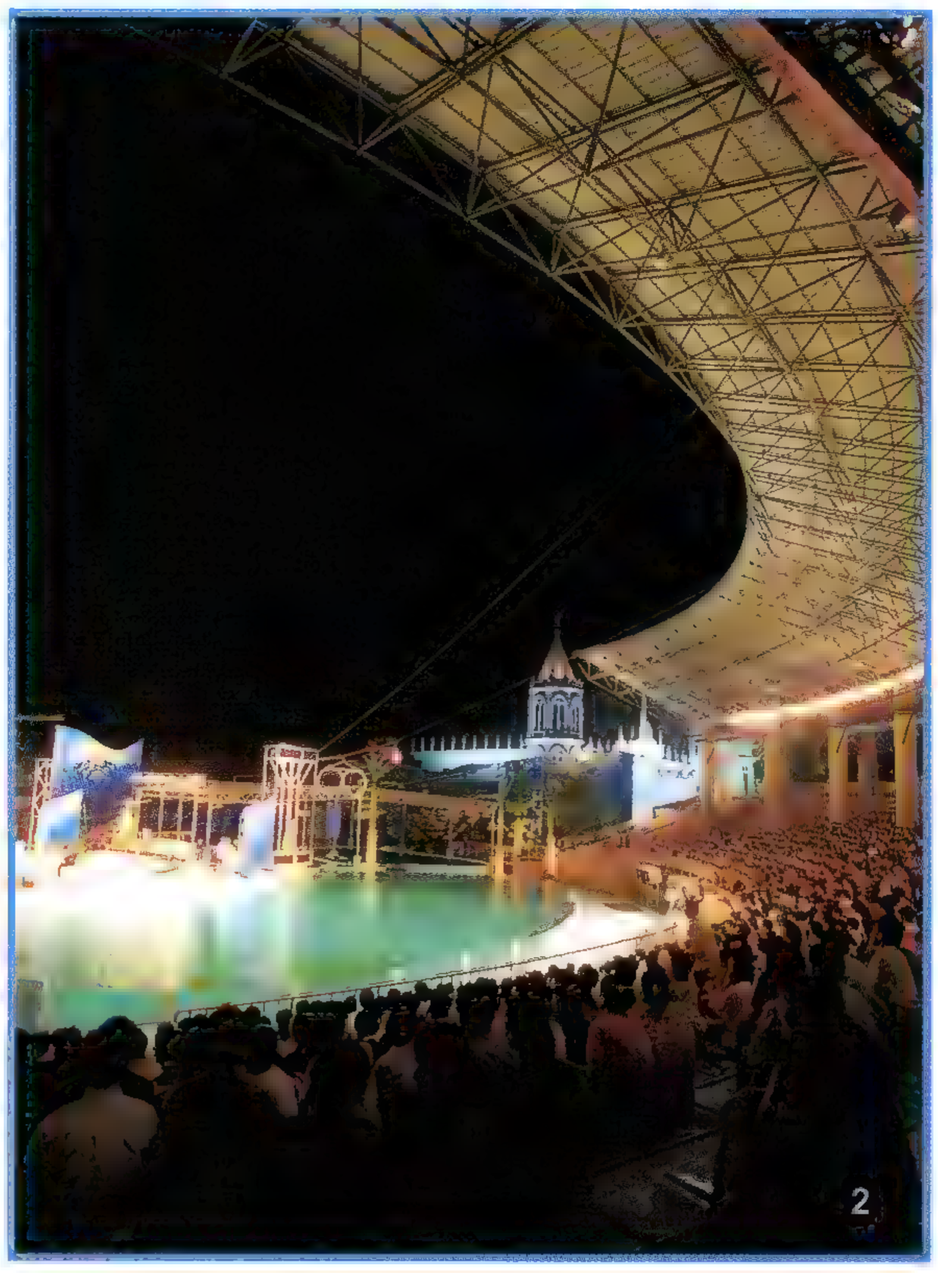
Photos & article by Li Wu

The beautiful sea beach at Xiaomeisha in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, has become a popular weekend retreat. It is a comfortable place to go swimming and picnicking, or taste fresh seafood meals. You can stay in a villa-style log cabin or romantic tent for the night.

Today, a new palatial European-style building has been constructed on the mountain side of Xiaomeisha Bay. This is the Xiaomeisha Ocean World, which just opened in July this year. The most attractive part of Ocean World is its aquarium, where more than 300 different kinds of fish swim freely in the tall glass enclosure. This area is well illuminated so that everything can be seen clearly. At the bottom of the "ocean", there are sunken "ancient boats" and "palaces" and in the busy season divers enthrall the many visitors as they swim with the fishes.

In the Shark Hall, you can fully enjoy watching the fierce shark up close. The two-metre long white shark sometimes seems to lie still at the bottom of the tank for you to take pictures.

In the Grand Theatre next to the aquarium, various performances are given on the water stage. Besides the shows by dolphins, sea lions and seals, there are also performances of water skiing, water ballet and beachwear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shows given by Russian artists and athletes.

"Travelling the Ocean in a Dream" is similar to travelling on the "time-capsule" train at the US Disneyland. In this cable car running on a double-track railway, you glide past the Dutch Port of the Middle Ages, Tunnel Inside the Shark's Belly, Great Barrier Reef at the Sea Bottom, Robinson Cruseo's Deserted Island and many more. This ride especially delights the children. The hall of shells and the ocean garden sculptures are also interesting.

1. **The buildings housing the aquarium and "Travelling the Ocean in a Dream" Hall**
2. **The Grand Theatre has both a pool and a stage for daily performances.**
3. **A performance given by Russian artists**
4. **A dolphin kissing a little girl**
5. **On the Xiaomeisha Beach**
6. **The "Fascinating City"**
7. **Dolphin sculptures at the gate of Ocean World**

Tips for the Traveller

Transport: Travellers can take Bus No. 433 at the Shenzhen Railway Station square directly to Xiaomeisha for 10 yuan. From Hong Kong there are direct buses running to Xiaomeisha; a one-way ticket is HK$46.

Admission to Ocean World: 100 yuan for adults, 50 yuan for children and elderly.

Open Hours: Ocean World opens at 10:30 a.m. and closes after its 8:30 p.m. song and dance performance finishes. The evening performance includes sea animal shows, diving, acrobatics and water ballet.

Accommodation:

Xiaomeisha Hotel: Standard room: about 400 yuan.

Tent at the beach: 120 yuan per night.

1

ADVENTURES

During the Spring Festival holiday, our group of seven went on a 20-day self-arranged trip aboard two jeeps, leaving Baise in Guangxi to enter Guizhou. After seeing Huangguoshu Waterfalls, we went north to explore the village of the Long-horn Miao people at Suoga in Liuzhi, Guizhou, and then onto a snowy world at Dashanbao in Yunnan. We then travelled south for 400 kilometres and spent two days at Yuanmou, enjoying the subtropical scenery before heading home.

Trip to a Garden of Eden

Photos & article by Zhang Mingji

The Long-horn Miao Village in the Mountains

Amidst thick mist, we drove with difficulty along a muddy mountain road to find the Longga Village at its end. In this remote area of Liuzhi Special District in Guizhou Province, live a branch of the Miao people noted for their ancient and mysterious customs — the Long-horn Miaos. Here 12 small villages that are home to merely 4,000 people are scattered on the mountain slopes over 2,000 metres high. The road we had just driven on saw its first motor vehicle in 1995 in an event that heralded this isolated village's final opening to the outside world.

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We trudged along the path into the village and came to some stone houses with green moss-covered, thatched-roofs. Before I could take a closer look, I was already surrounded by a group of smiling Long-horn Miao women. These women were mostly rather short and, without exception, each had a decorative wooden object resembling an ox-horn tied around her head. On the two little girls' horns was a wig, weighing about two or three kilograms, bound with a white band into the shape of a horizontal figure 8. When they walked, they kept their body straight and gently and gracefully swayed their arms to the rhythm of their hips.

This unique headgear is really amazing. These people call themselves the Qing Miaos, meaning Miaos living in the bamboo groves. Long ago, in a battle, their chieftain was killed by the enemy's arrows. At his memorial service, the Miaos put their bows on their heads as a gesture to mourn their chieftain and pray for peace. In the following years the tribe grew strong. Later, the Miaos replaced the bows with wooden horns. The horn used to be worn by both men and women, but today it has become the privilege of women. Only during festivals is the wig tied on the horn.

I took a leisurely walk in the village and most villagers stared at me curiously; I was the minority here.

Others simply carried on their batik-making in total devotion. At times the tranquil moist air carried the aroma of roasted sweet potatoes. At the village entrance, several men were building a new village school. I wondered with opening up and more education, whether the local people's age-old tradition could be preserved in its original entirety.

Onto Dashanbao Mountain

Our jeeps climbed up the huge Dashanbao Mountain on a very gloomy day. The Yi people's houses by the road, whether old or new, all had golden ears of corn hanging there, adding bright colour to the early spring scenery. After some 30 kilometres, I suddenly saw sparkling ice on tree branches and snow atop the mountain. Cold wind sneaked into the jeep, infecting the passengers with great excitement: there was snow and rime!

Next we were engulfed by thick fog. When a gust of wind swept away some of the fog and cloud, we caught a quick glance of the mountain scenery. Soon the sun cast its warm rays over head. Clouds surged and tumbled under our feet.

We jumped off the jeep to enjoy the spring sunshine, but were soon panting for air. At 3,600 metres above sea level the air was

1. **The wig of this little girl weighs two or three kilograms.**
2. **Villagers of Longga Village**
3. **Scenic Dashanbao Mountain**
4. **Taking photos of the floating clouds**
5. **Black-necked cranes inhabiting this area (by Zhang Jie)**

certainly thin. I saw a little lake with still waters between small hills where several black-necked cranes paced the slopes of their nature reserve.

We arrived in Dashanbao Town on the market day. Narrow streets were packed with Hui and Yi people visiting the fair. The Black Yi men donned capes made of goat fur, like gallant warriors. Some Yi women operated their sewing machines in the street, making clothes. The village doctor, placing some bottles in the stall, was busy making diagnoses and prescribing medicine. There were many people selling local produce too.

While having lunch at the town's only restaurant, we ran into three journalists from the local *Zhaotong Newspaper*. Speaking with pride about Dashanbao Mountain, they told us that in mid-summer the mountain was most beautiful when blossoming flowers turned the slopes into a fairyland of dazzling colours on the carpet of thick green grass.

In the afternoon, we hurried to the Jigong Mountain, where we enjoyed watching the sea of clouds pierced by golden sunlight. At dusk, back in Dashanbao Town the temperature had dropped to -6°C.

The following morning we were greeted with a pure white world — frost and rime on the bushes and trees in a fascinating show. Then the gloom returned and snowflakes fell. Afraid of being trapped by the snow, we hurriedly got on the road.

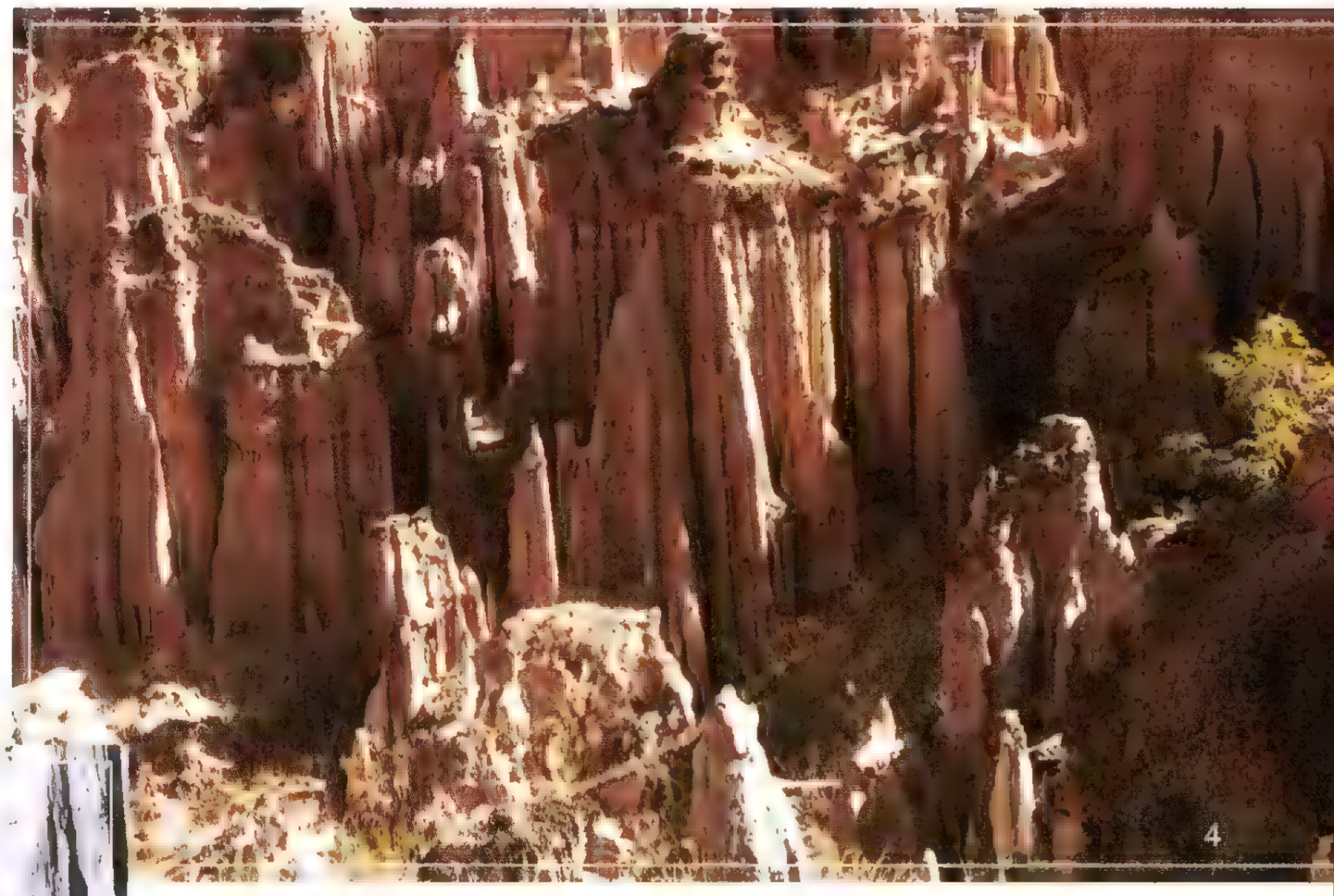
We found the 'Garden of Eden'

We pushed on from the mountainous northern Yunnan to Matou Mountain in the south. Yuanmou is the place where fossils of the Yuanmou Man were found, and a tablet marks this event in the history of human evolution. The town is in a deep basin surrounded by towering mountains. I could hardly believe that it had warmed up by 25 degrees.

Yuanmou is indeed a beautiful and fertile land where we saw sugar cane plants growing tall and thick, onions that were huge, and cauliflower planted in large patches. Sisal hemp and cactus grew randomly on the edges of farmland with noticeably black soil. Fiery red blossoms on kapok trees were accentuated by green leaves. By the small creeks, cucumbers hung on the vines and eggplants were ripening. Bananas were still green, while wheat plants were crowned with tender ears. Kids played in the creeks trying to catch fish. What a different world! We were on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, but this valley seemed more like the warm regions in South China.

Later as I walked in the forest at the Earth Forest south of Huanggua Town, my thoughts drifted. The Chinese character for the Yi people who inhabit this land resembles the local houses. Also included in the character are the radicals for rice and silk, indicating the endowments of this place. Many places in Yunnan have, as part of their names, the word "dian", meaning flatland. Adding the name of the people, Yi, to this "dian", make the word "Yidian", which is a homonym of the Chinese expression for the "Garden of Eden". Is this just a coincidence?

Translated by F. Huang



1. On the market day in Dabaoshan Town
2. Golden corn ears are hung at the door of every household.
3. A pure white world of frost and rime
4. The Earth Forest in Yuanmou
5. Roaming through the "forest"

Tips for the Traveller

◆ 1. The Longga Long-horn Miao Village

- **Transport:** Buses go from Guiyang or Anshun to Liuzhi Special District. You must hire a jeep there to go 36 kilometres to Suoga Town and on to Longga Village eight kilometres away along a difficult mountain road. You must first apply for a visitors' permit at Liuzhi Tourism Bureau.
- **Accommodation:** There is no restaurant or hotel in the village. Visitors should take their own food and drink, or buy potatoes from the villagers. The township government may help small groups find overnight lodgings. Big groups have to go back to Liuzhi for the night.
- **Important notes:** The weather is often gloomy and rainy. Walking is difficult on the muddy road. Bring rain gear and appropriate shoes. Hiring a four-wheel-drive jeep is the best idea.

◆ 2. Dashanbao Mountain

- **Transport:** Shuttle buses go from Kunming to Zhaotong. Two daily buses make the three-hour trip over 82 kilometres from Zhaotong to Dashanbao, part of Wulian Mountain in the Wumeng Mountain Range. You may also hire a jeep in Zhaotong at a rate around 500 yuan a day.
- **Accommodation:** Dashanbao is a small town with two small restaurants offering delicious local food. Its hostel, poorly furnished, charge 8 yuan per bed per day.
- **Important notes:** The market fair is not a daily event, but it is certainly well worth a visit when open. At this height, most visitors suffer altitude sickness. Bring along warm clothes and your own medicines.

◆ 3. Yuanmou Earth Forest

- **Transport:** Buses run from Kunming to Yuanmou County. From Huanggua Town, eight kilometres past the county town of Yuanmou, horse-drawn carts serve the six-kilometre section to the Earth Forest.
- **Accommodation:** Tulin Hotel offers food and double rooms at 160 yuan. Earth Forest Park charges 10 yuan admission.
- **Important note:** The mountain path in the Earth Forest is steep and slippery. Wear appropriate shoes.

SKETCH MAP SHOWING TRAVEL ROUTES

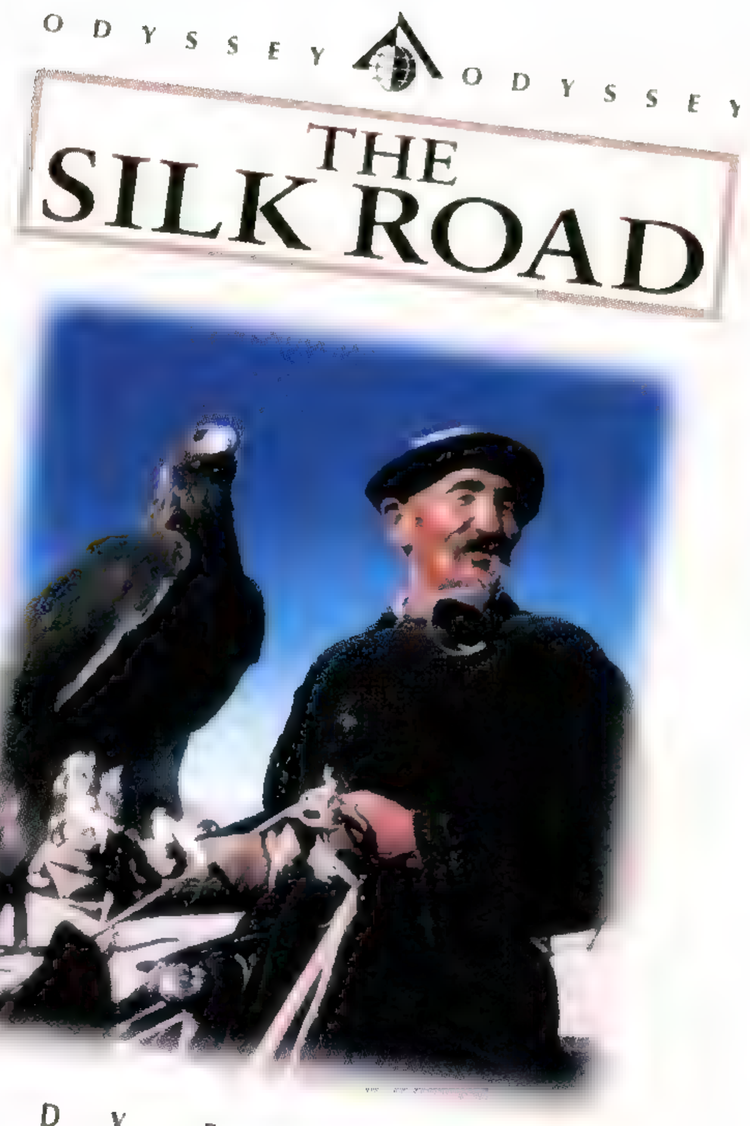
The Silk Road

By Judy Bonavia

Odyssey Publications

1999, 336 pages

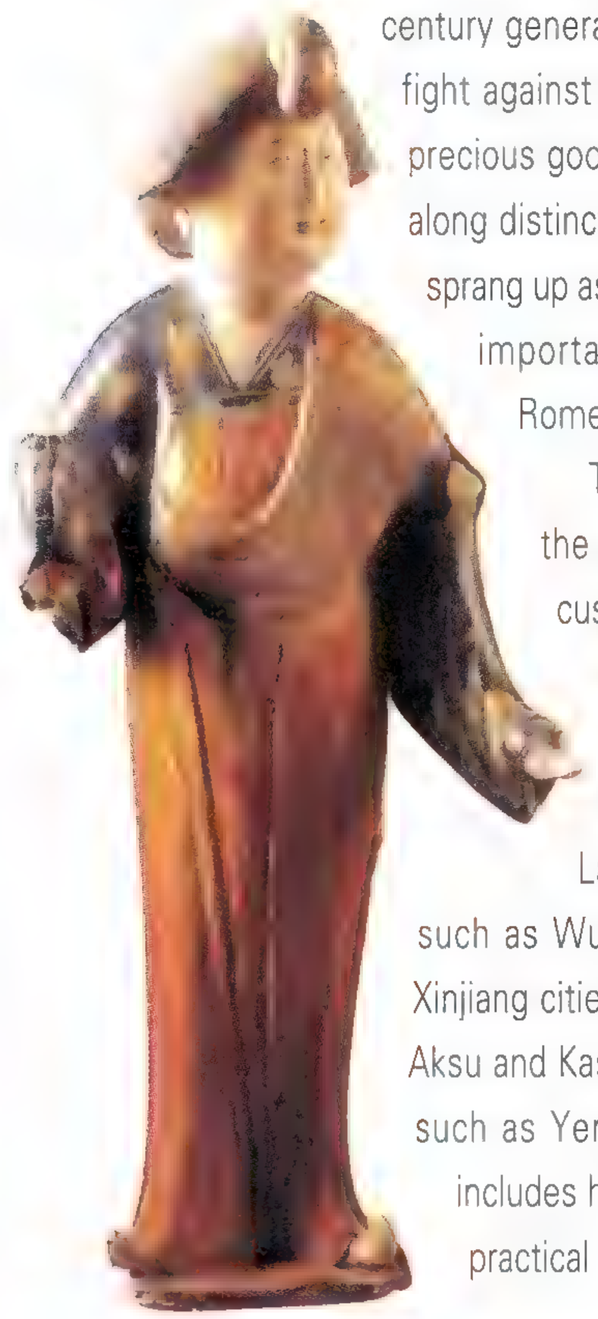
Price: HK$160 (US$19.95)



The Silk Road is unusual as a guidebook, in that it does not cover only one province or city of a country. It takes readers on a journey across several provinces on the Chinese section of the Silk Road, a route whose name was only assigned in the 1870s by a German geographer.

The Silk Road had been used since the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) for transportation of goods in and out of Chang'an (now Xi'an), its capital city. The route winds from Xi'an westward through Gansu Province along the Hexi Corridor to Dunhuang where it branches north and south to skirt the Taklimakan Desert to Kashgar or Yarkand in western Xinjiang. From these places the two routes continue westward, joining on the final leg through Central Asia to reach the Roman Empire on the Mediterranean Sea. Another branch goes south through Kashmir into the Indian Subcontinent.

The Silk Road was the commercial link between China's Han Dynasty and the Romans, who knew of a land to the east which they called Seres, Kingdom of Silk. The route flourished through the fifth and sixth centuries but declined in later centuries when the Persians mastered the art of sericulture. The route was first travelled by second-century general Zhang Qian in order to make allies to fight against the Huns. Caravans loaded with many precious goods, including silk, usually travelled only along distinct sections of the route and oasis towns sprang up as trading posts. Silk, in its early days, was important, as the fabric was worn even by Rome's lowest classes.



The introduction contains information on the basics of travel in China, such as visa, customs, climate and red tape. The book is divided into sections along the route where traders left behind their history: Xi'an; southern Gansu cities such as Lanzhou and Linxia; Hexi Corridor cities such as Wuwei, Zhangye, Jiayuguan, Dunhuang; Xinjiang cities such as Hami, Urümqi, Turpan, Korla, Aksu and Kashi; and the cities of the southern route such as Yengisar, Yecheng and Hotan. Each one includes history, sights in and around the city, and practical information such as transportation, food, maps, travel agencies and accommodation. The latter two have Chinese characters included alongside, which is helpful; having the characters for place names in the text, rather than just in the index, would also be useful.

What makes this book stand out is the special topics and literary extracts. These provide interesting background to those who lack an in-depth knowledge of Chinese history and culture. For example, there are sections on the Silk Road's earliest Chinese travellers — two military men, Zhang Qian and Ban Chao, and two monks, Fa Xian and Xuan Zang, as well as Western explorers, the infamous Marco Polo, the unknown Sven Hedin who trekked the Taklimakan, and the most heinous "foreign devils", Aural Stein and Albert von Le Coq, who made off with many cultural treasures. The literary extracts taken from travellers over the past one and a half centuries gives an added sense of humanity to travel in the region. There is also information on the area's ethnic groups and religions — Buddhism and Islam.

Though there are a good number of maps, a useful addition would be the Silk Road routes on a present-day map. I found myself frequently flipping back and forth from the old Silk Road route map to the maps of today's Xinjiang and other Chinese places. As well, past and present city names together would be helpful.

The effective combination of history, special topics and insights with scenic sights in good colour photos and practical information makes *The Silk Road* highly recommended reading, even for arm-chair travellers. It may even induce many of them to make a trip.

Reviewed by Patricia Hutton

The Home of Silverware

Photos & article by Liu Fengqun

Since the end of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), various handicrafts such as burnishing and engraving began to appear in Xinhua Village near Lijiang in Yunnan Province. This village, in which about two-thirds of the families make a living by producing handicraft articles, is known as the "Home of Silverware". The villagers use mainly copper-nickel alloy, gold and silver to produce many objects, including large ones such as Buddhist statues, copper cauldrons and water jars, and small items like silver bowls, Tibetan knives and bracelets. Their products are sold in Tibet, Sichuan, and Qinghai, and foreign countries such as Myanmar, India, Thailand and Japan. It is an unbelievable fact that almost all exquisite handicraft souvenirs on sale in Tibet are produced in this village of only 1,000 households.

It took me three hours by bus to travel on a mountainous road from Dali to Heqing, the county seat, from where I took another bus to Xinhua Village. The village nestles against a mountain and faces a lake, giving a sense of tranquillity and simplicity. The rustic buildings reveal a strong primitive air. There were few pedestrians on the quiet street. Only occasionally, one or two country women walked past and darted curious glances at me, an obvious outsider. Roaming the streets, I found a private house whose central gate was wide open. Various instruments lay in the courtyard, and a woman was sitting there doing some polishing. I popped my head in and looked about, and the house host, Cun Huiming, rendered me a warm welcome on learning the purpose of my visit. He introduced the entire process of silverware-making, from raw material to finished product, and demonstrated as well.

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The handicraft art is handed down from generation to generation and people start leaning in childhood. Each family manufactures its own special products. Cun Huiming's family makes silver pots, wine cups and rings, while others work on women's personal ornaments, wine pots, chopsticks and Tibetan knives. Cun Huiming was very accommodating and helpful, allowing me to be warmly received in every household.

During the '99 Kunming International Horticultural Exposition, the village was open to tourists to visit and buy handicraft articles.

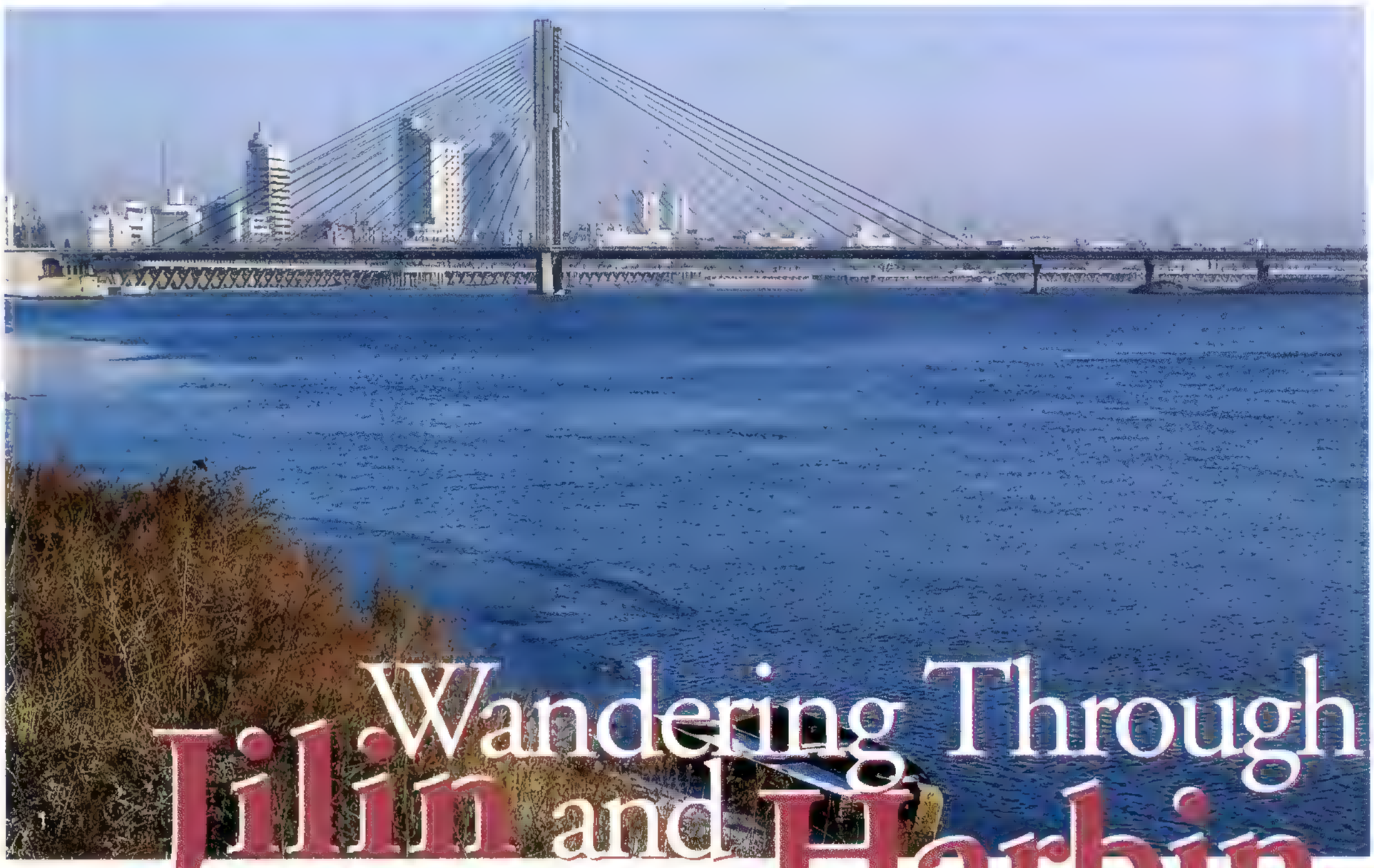
Translated by Xiong Zhenru

1. The Xinhua Village with a mountain at its back and a lake in front
2. Silver handicrafts made in the hometown of silverware

Tips for the Traveller

Transport: It is 158 kilometres and a three-hour bus ride from Xiaguan in Dali to Heqing. The fare is 20 yuan. Then change to a motor tricycle (10 yuan, or 16 yuan return), or taxi (about 20 yuan) to Xinhua Village. From Lijiang to Heqing, it is 48 kilometres and takes 40 minutes by bus. The fare is 6 yuan.

Silverware: Rings are reasonably priced, with the cheapest around 20 yuan. The prices of other silverware such as bracelets, necklaces, chopsticks, wine cups and pots range from 50 to 500 yuan according to their weight and craftsmanship. The price of pure silver is around eight yuan per gram in the village. There are also beautifully crafted articles made of copper-nickel alloy, such as bracelets and pots which are much cheaper than the silverware.



Wandering Through Jilin and Harbin

Photos & article by Pierre Wong

I had taken the Y261 train from ∞chun, the capital of Jilin Province, to Jilin City, and the young lady sitting next to me struck up a conversation. She said that she was an art student at Jilin Teacher's College. When we arrived in Jilin, she settled me in a nearby hotel and even gave me a map.

After that I headed off to the city's Catholic church. The church was built in the 1920s and continues to serve the faithful. On the way back, I located cheaper lodgings at 100 yuan a night, which would help me economise since I had arrived two weeks early for the Ice Lantern Festival in Harbin.

After checking in the next morning, I made my way to Beishan Park, which was relatively close. Beishan is dedicated to Buddhism with Buddhist temples scattered over the mountain. In recent years, a winter sports facility has been constructed to provide entertainment for the locals. Without the benefit of a map, I miraculously ended up circling the perimeter of the park and exiting by the Muslim mosque.

Waiting Two Weeks for the Rime

On another day, I went to the Fengman Hydroelectric Station with my friend from the teacher's college. While we were there, a tour boat operator persuaded us to take a boat tour at 50 yuan per hour. The dam traps a large section of Songhua Lake and is the largest reservoir I have ever seen. Actually, the hydroelectric station is an integral part of Jilin, which is particularly famous for its rime in early winter; without it the city of Jilin would not have the beautiful winter scenes with mist and rime. It occurs when warm water from the power station is released into the Songhua River on days when the mercury hits -20°C or below. The warm water yields a mist and the mist collects on the trees that dot the river, forming a spectacular scene of rime.

I spent two weeks in Jilin, mostly waiting to see the elusive scenes of rime, something unique to Jilin. But up to the day before I left, I never got a chance to see it. I got up at the ungodly hour of 6:30 a.m. that day. Even though the temperature that morning was the coldest so far, there was still no sign of rime.

According to the hotel staff, the Harbin Ice Lantern Festival had commenced, so I left for Harbin the following day.

The Biting Cold of Harbin

Harbin, the capital of Heilongjiang in the neighbouring province of Jilin, was much colder. When the weather was too warm to form rime in Jilin City, the bitter cold was just right for Harbin's annual Ice Lantern Festival. I saw the obligatory lanterns and also found other sights worth visiting.

The first day was spent gawking at the recently touched up, solemn and grand St. Sophia's Eastern Orthodox Church and Zhongyang Dajie (Central Street) — a shopping district with Russian-style buildings and cobblestone-paved pedestrian paths. The street was laid at the beginning of the century with bricks brought in from abroad, at the enormous cost of one tael of silver each. My friend Wang Wen and I were having espressos and a Danish pastry at one of the bakeries there when we noticed a couple of backpackers who came in and happily stocked up on French baguettes.

I then made a date to see the Northeast Tiger Park on Sun Island. My backpackers' bible had included an entry on the park which had given me some reservations about safety. Entrance to the main park, where tourists ride around in caged buses, costs 33 yuan. The tigers are a bit lethargic in the winter months; and the only bit of excitement occurred when the park rangers tossed a live chicken onto the roof of their vehicle, on which one tiger pounced in one graceful leap. For the bloodthirsty, chickens and rabbits are sold like bird seed is purveyed in pigeon parks. The adjacent tiger cub park cost 18 yuan for admission, and tourists can walk along caged corridors. In my view this offers a closer encounter with the big cats.

The Sun Island Park also features a Sino-Japanese Friendship Garden where tourists can rent kimonos and parade around the Japanese-style gardens. Back in town we had lunch at a Russian restaurant called Huamei, which has exquisite decor and reasonably-priced food.

The Touch of Russian Influence

Hongjunjie (Red Army Street), which starts from the railway station and extends southeast, is littered with Russian-style buildings, especially around the Hongbo Square. I walked along route 109 towards Gexin shopping area where there was supposed to be another Eastern Orthodox church. The church turned out to be Catholic but the exterior design was heavily Russian-influenced. I had a rendezvous at noon in front of the Heilongjiang Museum, another Russian-style building, where there was a free photo exhibition on the US-led NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia.

The highlight of the day was supposed to be the ride on the "Beijing-Harbin Express" in the Nangang District Children's Park. School children get the chance to volunteer as announcers and ticket collectors on the miniature train ride of 10 to 15 minutes. Orders are barked and intoned in exactly the same manner as their adult counterparts. Unfortunately, the train ride is closed in winter.

1. It still is not cold enough for the rime.
2. A close encounter with a tiger
3. The Catholic church in Jilin that still functions for the faithful
4. The St. Sophia's Eastern Orthodox Church in Harbin
5. Dressing vibrantly on a bleak winter day
6. Many buildings in Harbin show Russian style.

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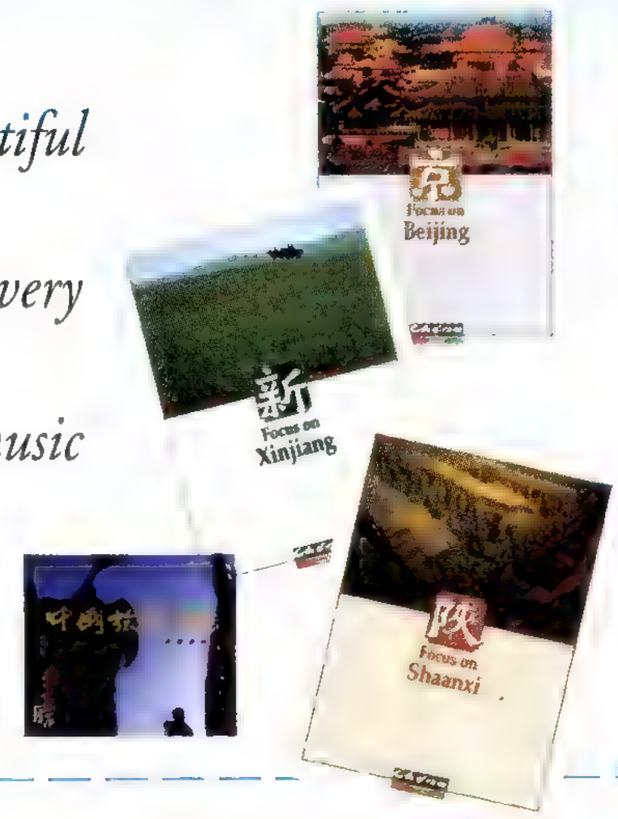

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Highlights of Issue No. 235

Numerous buildings, shops, restaurants and various scenic spots are important witnesses to the ups and downs of the century in China. In the beginning of this **21st century**, our feature story will travel back in time to present you with a most nostalgic experience.

- In **Beijing**, **Dashilar**, the well-known commercial area, earns its fame for the time-honoured shops lining the street. Each of these hundred-year-old names has its own distinctive story, which may even date back well into the Qing Dynasty.

- Compared to the days of a century ago, **Shanghai** has undergone enormous changes. **The Bund**, **Nanjing Road**, the former headquarters of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and the old residential area of Shikumen have all become the vintage landmarks of the city today. Simply contrasting the old pictures with the new look of Shanghai is great entertainment.

- Bama County in Guangxi is designated the **Village of Longevity** because the place has a big share of "longevity stars" who are more than 100 years old. What is their secret for staying healthy? How do they feel living such a long life?

- Other highlights include a hundred-year-old town, a hundred-year-old customs house, and a hundred-year-old herbal shop.

Langmu Temple sitting at the boundary of Gansu and Sichuan provinces possesses exceptional allure in winter. In this holy land of Tibetan Buddhism, the grand ceremony of Sunning the Buddha takes place every year in the first lunar month. People from near and afar gather to see a huge portrait of the Buddha unfolded on the large expanse of whiteness, adding a jubilant yet solemn air to the place. We also take you to visit the local Tibetans to see how they lead their lives in the land of snow.

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Hotel Lisboa	*****	Avenida de Lisboa, No. 2-4, Macao	(853) 577666	(853) 567193
Mandarin Oriental Macao	*****	Avenida da Amizade, Macao	(853) 567888	(853) 594589
New Century Hotel	*****	889 Avenida Padre Tomas Pereira, Taipa	(853) 831111	(853) 832222
Pousada de Sao Tiago	*****	Fortaleza de Sao Tiago da Barra, Avenida da Republica, Macao	(853) 378111	(853) 552170
Pousada Ritz	*****	Rua do Comendador Kou Ho Neng, Macao	(853) 339955	(853) 317826
Hotel Royal	*****	2-4 Estrada da Vitoria, Macao	(853) 552222	(853) 563008
The Westin Resort	*****	1918 Estrada de Hac Sa, Coloane	(853) 871111	(853) 871122
Holiday Inn Macao	****	82-86 Rua de Pequim, Macao	(853) 783333	(853) 782321
Hotel Grandeur	****	199 Rua de Pequim, Macao	(853) 781233	(853) 781211
Pousada de Coloane	****	Praia de Cheoc Van, Coloane	(853) 882143	(853) 882251
Hotel Presidente	****	355 Avenida da Amizade, Macao	(853) 553888	(853) 552735
Hotel Beverly Plaza	****	70 Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues, Macao	(853) 782288	(853) 780704
Grandview Hotel	****	142 Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira, Taipa	(853) 837788	(853) 837777
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Macao — Beijing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13 : 10	16 : 10	NX 002
Chongqing — Macao	3 6 7	14 : 55	17 : 50	SZ 425
Macao — Chongqing	3 6 7	18 : 50	21 : 50	SZ 426
Fuzhou — Macao	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10 : 10	11 : 30	MF 891
Macao — Fuzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12 : 45	14 : 05	MF 892
Guilin — Macao	2 3 5 6	16 : 25	17 : 25	WH205
	3 6 7	16 : 40	17 : 50	SZ 425
Macao — Guilin	2 3 5 6	18 : 25	19 : 20	WH206
	3 6 7	18 : 50	19 : 55	SZ 426
Haikou — Macao	2 5	11 : 10	12 : 00	CZ3045
	4	15 : 00	16 : 05	NX9171
	2 6	19 : 25	20 : 30	NX9171
Macao — Haikou	4	12 : 45	14 : 00	NX9172
	2 5	13 : 00	13 : 45	CZ3046
	2 6	17 : 20	18 : 35	NX9172
Kunming — Macao	2 4 6	15 : 40	17 : 30	3Q 491
Macao — Kunming	2 4 6	18 : 30	20 : 30	3Q 492
Nanjing — Macao	3 5 7	15 : 45	18 : 05	NX 127
Macao — Nanjing	3 5 7	12 : 30	14 : 50	NX 128
Ningbo — Macao	2 6	15 : 35	17 : 55	NX9117
Macao — Ningbo	2 6	12 : 35	14 : 45	NX9118
Sanya — Macao	7	18 : 50	20 : 15	NX9177
Macao — Sanya	7	16 : 25	18 : 00	NX9178
Shanghai — Macao	1 3 5 7	09 : 20	11 : 50	FM951
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15 : 25	17 : 50	NX 105
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	17 : 25	19 : 50	NX 101
Macao — Shanghai	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12 : 20	14 : 30	NX 106
	1 3 5 7	13 : 05	15 : 25	FM 952
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14 : 05	16 : 15	NX 102
Wuhan — Macao	1 4	19 : 30	21 : 20	NX 185
Macao — Wuhan	1 4	17 : 05	18 : 45	NX 186
Xiamen — Macao	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14 : 55	16 : 15	NX 131
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16 : 50	18 : 00	MF 895
Macao — Xiamen	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13 : 00	14 : 10	NX 132
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	19 : 00	20 : 05	MF 896
Xi'an — Macao	2 3 5 6	14 : 00	17 : 25	WH205
Macao — Xi'an	2 3 5 6	18 : 25	21 : 55	WH206
Zhengzhou — Macao	1 5	16 : 00	18 : 20	NX9037
Macao — Zhengzhou	1 5	12 : 55	15 : 10	NX9038

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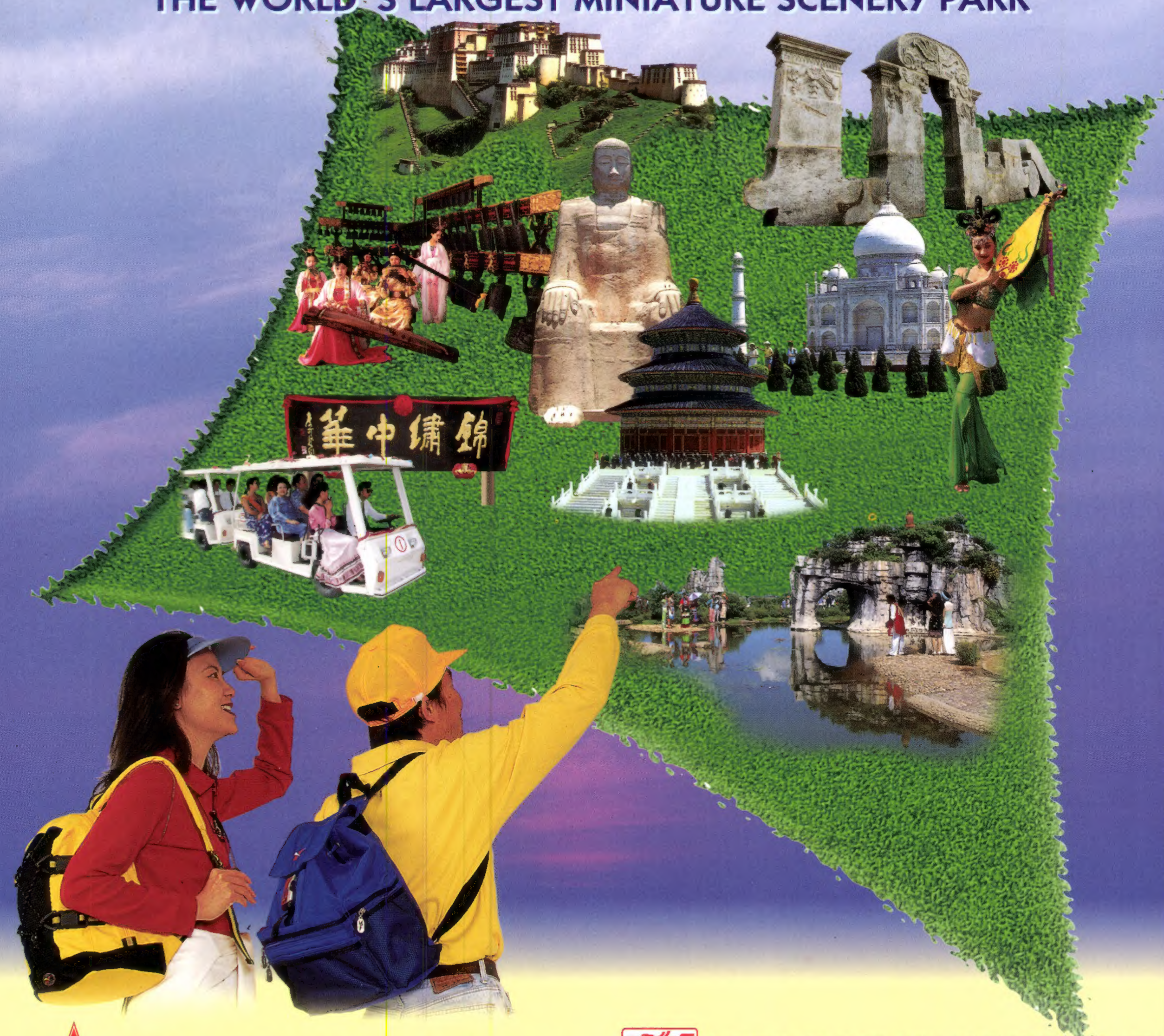

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